United Nations S/2007/265

Security Council

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Letter dated 8 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of South Africa for the month of March 2007 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility. I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baso **Sangqu**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of South Africa (March 2007)

During the South African presidency the Security Council held 18 meetings, including an open debate on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security, and 20 informal consultations. Five resolutions and four presidential statements were adopted.

Africa

The Sudan

On 6 March, the Security Council was briefed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, on his mission of re-energizing and facilitating the political process on the basis of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The Council was also briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on the implementation of the three-phased approach in Darfur.

On 19 March, the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the response of the Government of the Sudan to the Secretary-General's letter of 24 January 2007 presenting the details of phase II (heavy support package) of the three-phased approach. The Under-Secretary-General highlighted what the Secretariat saw as the principal issues raised in President Al-Bashir's letter, revisited steps taken to develop the United Nations package and briefly described the fundamental implications of taking forward suggestions in the President's letter and its annex.

Somalia

On 13 March, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, François Lonseny Fall, on the political situation in Somalia as well as on the developments concerning the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

During the discussions, the Council members stressed the need for a broad-based, all inclusive political process to consolidate stability, peace and reconciliation in Somalia. Members also voiced serious concern over the escalating violence in Somalia and appealed to the international community to assist the African Union with financial and logistical support.

On 23 March, the President of the Council read a statement to the press in which the members expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Somalia, which continued to deteriorate, greatly increasing the suffering of Somalis.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 14 March, the Council was briefed by the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Abou Moussa, and the High Representative for the elections, Gérard Stoudmann, on the political developments in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular the Ouagadougou Agreement concluded by President Laurent Gbagbo and Mr. Guillaume Soro on 4 March 2007.

Following the consultations, a statement to the press was read out by the President, in which the Council welcomed the Agreement, encouraged implementation, and requested the Secretary-General to continue engaging the parties and the Facilitator.

On 28 March, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/8) welcoming and endorsing the Ouagadougou Agreement and requesting the Secretary-General to submit to it recommendations by 15 May 2007 on the role that the United Nations should play to support the implementation of the peace process.

Liberia

On 22 March, the Council discussed the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The consultations were preceded by a meeting of the Security Council with the troop-contributing countries, during which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Alan Doss, gave a briefing concerning the military and police dimensions of UNMIL. On 30 March, the Security Council adopted resolution 1750 (2007), extending the mandate of UNMIL for a further six months.

Guinea-Bissau

On 29 March, the representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, Shola Omoregie, briefed the Council on the developments in Guinea-Bissau. Following the briefing, the President read out a statement to the press expressing concern about the continuing political and social tensions between the National Assembly and the Government, which had led to the resignation of the Prime Minister on 28 March 2007. The Council further urged the parties to resolve their differences through dialogue and strict respect for the constitutional framework.

Chad

The Council held an informal private meeting with the Foreign Minister of Chad to discuss ways of improving security conditions on the Chad side of the border with the Sudan and of fostering regional peace and stability through the monitoring of cross-border activities between Chad, the Central African Republic and the Sudan, including possible deployment of a United Nations mission. This was pursuant to the report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/1019), in which it was recommended that there be a United Nations presence in the border areas of Chad, the Central African Republic and the Sudan.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 22 March, the Council, in a statement read to the press by the President, expressed serious concern about the violent clashes that had erupted in Kinshasa and encouraged the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of

the Congo to address the security challenge with a view to safeguarding the ongoing political process.

Cross-border issues in West Africa

On 16 March, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, briefed the Council. He informed the Council that, compared to the situation a few years previously, prospects for durable peace appeared far more promising in West Africa, although the proliferation of small arms and light weapons continued to be of great concern.

The situation in the Great Lakes region

On 9 March, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ibrahima Fall, on the situation in the Great Lakes region. The Special Representative's mandate came to an end on 31 March. Implementation of the outcomes of the International Conference, in particular the Pact on Security, Stability and Development of December 2006, was being coordinated by the newly established Executive Secretariat of the Great Lakes Conference in Bujumbura. The Special Representative's briefing focused on the main achievements of the International Conference and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, lessons learned, the challenges ahead and the future role of the United Nations and its agencies in the region, including the need for assistance to implement the outcomes of the International Conference.

On 22 March, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas, Joaquim Chissano, on the latest developments in the peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army. At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/6).

Asia

Middle East

Lebanon

The Council convened on 21 March to receive a briefing from the Commissioner, Serge Brammertz, on the seventh periodic report of the International Independent Investigation Commission (S/2007/150).

The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1748 (2007) on 27 March, by which it decided to extend the mandate of the Commission until 15 June 2008 or to terminate it earlier if the Commission reported that it had completed the implementation of its mandate. The Council also requested the Commission henceforth to report to the Council on the progress every four months (previously the reporting obligation was every three months).

Palestine/Israel

The Council convened on 14 March to receive its monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe. The

briefing covered developments in the region over the previous month. The Council did not adopt any statement after the meeting.

Iraq

United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission

The Council convened on 7 March to receive a briefing from the Acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Demetrius Perricos, on the twenty-eighth quarterly report of the Commission (S/2007/106). He explained the activities of UNMOVIC during the period from 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007.

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq/multinational force

The Council convened on 15 March, in the presence of the Vice-President of Iraq, Adil Abd al-Mahdi, to receive its quarterly briefing on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the multinational force. By resolution 1723 (2006) the Council required the Secretary-General to report to it on a quarterly basis on the situation in Iraq and specifically the activities of UNAMI. The Council further requested the United States, on behalf of the multinational force, to report to the Council on a quarterly basis on the activities of the force. The Council had before it the latest report of the Secretary-General on UNAMI (S/2007/126). The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, as well as by the representative of the United States on behalf of the multinational force.

On 22 March, the Council members, in a statement read by the President to the press, expressed their unwavering support for the efforts of the United Nations and its Secretary-General to promote an inclusive and effective political process in Iraq aimed at reaching national reconciliation and preserving its sovereignty and territorial integrity. They strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the Iraqi Prime Minister's office when the Secretary-General was there.

Non-proliferation

The Council in response to the report of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) showing that the Islamic Republic of Iran had not complied with resolution 1737 (2006) (S/2007/100), unanimously adopted resolution 1747 (2007) on 24 March. By resolution 1747 (2007) the Council reaffirmed the provisions of resolution 1737 (2006) and introduced additional measures to convince the Islamic Republic of Iran to seek a negotiated solution. In resolution 1747 (2007) the Council called for a further report from the IAEA Director General, within 60 days of the adoption of the resolution.

Afghanistan

On 20 March, the Council convened an open debate to consider the current political and related developments in Afghanistan. The meeting received briefings from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Tom Koenigs, as well as the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, Antonio Maria Costa.

The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, given that Italy is a lead country on Afghanistan within the Security Council. Most of the speakers during the debate responded to the Secretary-General's report on Afghanistan (S/2007/152), which described the current state of affairs in Afghanistan in all its complexity. It outlined both the commendable progress made by the Government of Afghanistan in key areas such as reconstruction and development, and the immense challenges faced by that country, including increased insurgent activities, escalating cultivation of the opium poppy, slow progress in economic and social development and widespread corruption.

Subsequently, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1746 (2007) extending the mandate of UNAMA by one year, until 23 March 2008.

Europe

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

The Council held a private debate on 19 March followed by closed consultations to consider the Secretary-General's quarterly report on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2007/134), presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Joachim Rücker. The representative of Serbia, the President of the Coordination Centre of the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohija, Sanda Rašković-Ivić, addressed the meeting. President Fatmir Sedjui, leader of the Kosovo Team of Unity, was also present.

Cyprus

On 27 March, the President of the Council read out a statement to the press on the situation in Cyprus, in which the Council members welcomed the recently reported confidence-building measures adopted by the parties to the conflict and urged both communities to work with the United Nations to implement the agreement of 8 July 2006.

Other issues

Women and peace and security

In honour of International Women's Day on 8 March, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/5) on 7 March, which addressed the role of women in the maintenance of international peace and security, and addressed their empowerment in a comprehensive manner.

The presidency was also invited to read out the presidential statement at the annual United Nations commemoration of International Women's Day on 8 March in the General Assembly.

Open debate on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security

On 28 March, the Council held an open debate on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union. The meeting was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa, N. C. Dlamini Zuma.

At the end of the debate, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/7) in which it recognized the important role of regional organizations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations as well as its relevant resolutions and presidential statements.

Islamic Republic of Iran

On 29 March, the Council, in a statement read to the press by the President, expressed concern at the capture of 15 United Kingdom naval personnel and called for an early resolution of this problem, including their release.

Rwanda: adoption of resolution 1749 (2007)

On 28 March, the Council adopted resolution 1749 (2007) terminating the requirement in paragraph 11 of resolution 1011 (1995) that notification of all arms and related materiel transferred to the Government of Rwanda be brought to the attention of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994).

Small arms

South Africa hosted informal consultations on a draft presidential statement on small arms on 19 and 28 March. The draft statement commanded broad support among Council members but full consensus continued to elude the experts.

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Agenda item 16
The situation in Afghanistan

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 3 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, have met in Ankara on 29 and 30 April 2007, upon the invitation of Mr. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey.

At the end of this summit meeting, a declaration has been issued to reflect the common points agreed upon during the talks. The text of the declaration which, among other things, envisages the establishment of a "Joint Working Group" composed of the high-level representatives of the three countries, is enclosed herewith (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ankara Declaration

His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, visited Ankara on 29-30 April 2007 at the invitation of His Excellency Ahmet Necdet Sezer, the President of the Republic of Turkey.

President General Pervez Musharraf and President Hamid Karzai held comprehensive, cordial and useful talks, together with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, on regional and international issues. They emphasized that the international community must work together to promote the objectives of Afghanistan Compact. They pledged to cooperate towards promoting peace, security, stability and economic development in the region.

During the talks, the Presidents of Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to continue to have dialogue and cooperation in all dimensions between the two brotherly countries and to combine their efforts to enhance prosperity of their peoples.

The two Presidents:

Agreed that their historical ties serve as a common basis to address all challenges hampering the stability, security and the development of their region and to enhance their cooperation, building upon the "Joint Press Statement" of 07 September 2006 issued during President Musharraf's visit to Kabul.

Agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations on the basis of good-neighborliness, respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Acknowledging the great opportunity that exists for progress and economic development in the region, they pledged to work together to improve and strengthen the climate of trust and cooperation.

Agreed that extremism and terrorism are a common threat to both Afghanistan and Pakistan, as it is a danger to the region. They reiterated their commitment to continue supporting moderation, fighting all forms of extremism and terrorism through coordinated action. They expressed concern at the alarming increase in poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and underlined the connection between terrorism, drug-trafficking and organized crime in the region, and emphasized the need for concerted efforts to combat these menaces.

Agreed to deny sanctuary, training and financing to terrorists and to elements involved in subversive and anti-state activities in each other's country and to initiate immediate action on specific intelligence exchanges in this regard.

Reaffirmed their commitment to enhance goodwill and create further confidence building measures and mechanisms, including through interaction between political representatives, civil society, academicians, media, and sports and cultural links.

Resolved to work jointly for facilitating orderly repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan.

With a view to monitoring progress on the above agreed matters and coordinating the confidence-building measures and mechanisms, the Presidents established a "Joint Working Group (JWG)" with the participation of high level representatives of the three countries.

President Karzai expressed the gratitude of the people of Afghanistan to the people of Pakistan for continuing to host millions of Afghan refugees. He also appreciated Pakistan's offer to host the next meeting of Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA).

The Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan commended the initiative of Turkey for hosting the summit meeting and appreciated the offer to organize further meetings towards the end of 2007 or early 2008.

Ankara, 30 April 2007

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Letter dated 8 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Please allow me to make a few comments on your progress report on Ethiopia and Eritrea (S/2007/250) of 30 April 2007. The intent of this letter is not to go into the details of the progress report but simply to stress the most cardinal issues that need to be clarified. The progress report attempts to frame the lack of progress in the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia as an "impasse" or "stalemate" created by both parties. This is at variance with the facts. It would have been very helpful for the report to clearly state the problem that is holding the peace process hostage. Unless it does that, the needed focus on the core issue would be wasted as the last five years have amply demonstrated.

There is no impasse or stalemate. There is only Ethiopia's illegal rejection of the final and binding decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission. Ethiopia has gone further to evict the Boundary Commission from the area; it has withheld its financial contribution to the Commission; and it has obstructed the work of the Commission through all diversionary means. In these circumstances, to appropriate blame to both parties is unfair and unacceptable.

The Government of Ethiopia has made it a habit of making statements that are hollow and contradictory. At one time it informed the international community that it had accepted the Boundary Commission delimitation decision "in principle". Now, as stated in the report, "Ethiopia has stressed that it has accepted the Delimitation Decision, while maintaining that the problems that may arise from the border demarcation can be resolved only through dialogue with Eritrea". The report further states: "Ethiopia's position regarding cooperation with the Boundary Commission in the implementation of the Decision remains a major factor of the current impasse ...." It must be recalled that the Boundary Commission was formed in accordance with article 4.2 of the Algiers Peace Agreement, which stipulated: "The parties agree that a neutral Boundary Commission composed of five members shall be established with a mandate to delimit and demarcate the colonial treaty border based on pertinent colonial treaties (1900, 1902 and 1908) and applicable international law. The Commission shall not have the power to make decisions *ex aequo et bono*."

The salient provisions of the Algiers Agreement are also unambiguous both in respect to legal finality and in terms of remedial instruments of enforcement. These unequivocal legal provisions notwithstanding, the demarcation process, which could have been completed in a matter of months, was initially obstructed and

07-33806 (E) 100507

subsequently blatantly prevented by Ethiopia with impunity. Ethiopia has occupied, and continues to occupy, sovereign Eritrean territories in flagrant violation of the Algiers Agreement, the Boundary Commission decision and the Charter of the United Nations. Ethiopia even went further to install new population settlements in sovereign Eritrean territories and ignored the Security Council resolution adopted in September 2002, requesting it to rescind the illegal measure within 30 days.

It should be stressed that it is not up to Ethiopia to lay out the demarcation directives and procedures. The demarcation directives and procedures are already formulated by the Boundary Commission with the agreement of the two parties. The technical problems that may arise during demarcation are also clearly addressed in the demarcation directives.

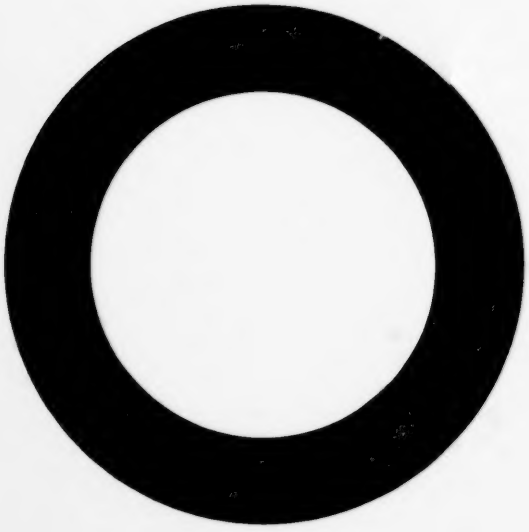
Ethiopia's brazen violation of international law, and its illegal occupation of sovereign territories of a State Member of the United Nations, Eritrea, is undoubtedly the cause of tension and insecurity in the region. It could also precipitate another round of hostilities with dire consequences for regional peace and stability.

It is a known fact that Eritrea has fulfilled its share of the agreement without any precondition. In fact, Eritrea has maintained its firm commitment, for five solid years, to the authority and decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission. It is sad and unforgivable to observe that the United Nations injustice and partiality that began in 1952 over Eritrea continues even to this modern era.

While I welcome your decision to appoint a new Special Representative for UNMEE to assume the responsibility that was held by Ambassador Legwaila, let me take this opportunity to reiterate my delegation's concern about the reference made to the "Acting Special Representative" in the report who has been illegally operating since November 2006 from Addis Ababa against repeated protests of my Government. Eritrea rejected the above-mentioned "Special Representative of the Secretary-General" or "Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General" to head UNMEE from anywhere, since it is inconsistent with the agreement signed between the parties and the United Nations.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



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Letter dated 8 May 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

With reference to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005) and 1722 (2006), I have the honour to convey the attached letter from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, dated 3 April 2007, transmitting the ninth report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, covering the period from 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 3 April 2007 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005) and 1722 (2006), I attach the ninth three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). The report covers the period from 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007. I should be grateful if you would transmit this report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

Report of the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the period from 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007.

2. The Security Council in resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005) and 1722 (2006) requested that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, report to the Council on the activity of the European Union military mission (EUFOR) through the appropriate channels and at least at three-monthly intervals. This document is the ninth such report to the Council.

II. Political background

3. During this reporting period, the general security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable. The political situation was dominated by the question of Government formation: on 3 January 2007 seven parties agreed a division of portfolios and programme goals for the future State-level Government; the Council of Ministers was approved by the House of Representatives on 9 February and the election of Bosniac and Croat delegates to the House of Peoples from the Federation was held on 27 February.

4. The technical talks on a stabilization and association agreement were concluded on 15 December but all the requirements for signing the agreement have not yet been fulfilled, including police reform, which remains the main obstacle. The report of the Directorate for Police Restructuring Implementation, issued on 22 December, has not yet been acted on by the State and entity governments and parliaments as required by the political agreement of October 2005. Political talks to facilitate the issue, initiated by the Chair of the Council of Ministers, are ongoing.

5. At its meeting on 26 and 27 February the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council decided against confirming the closure of the Office of the High Representative at this time. The aim now is to close the Office by 30 June 2008. The Steering Board agreed to review the situation at its meetings in October 2007 and February 2008.

III. EUFOR activities

6. During the reporting period, EUFOR comprised around 5,500 troops from 24 European Union member States and 10 other countries.[a] Rear Admiral Hans-Jochen Witthauer (Germany) took over command of EUFOR from Major General Gian-Marco Chiarini (Italy) on 5 December 2006.

[a] EUFOR currently comprises troops from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Albania, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. Cyprus and Malta also contribute to the common costs of this operation.

7. EUFOR continues to conduct operations in line with its mandate to provide deterrence, to ensure continued compliance in relation to the responsibilities specified in the General Framework Agreement for Peace, annexes 1A and 2, and to contribute to a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also provides support to the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the search for persons indicted for war crimes, usually in cooperation with local police authorities.

8. EUFOR has been conducting and supporting operations in cooperation with local authorities and law enforcement agencies. The operational focus has remained on weapons collection activities, with a view to decreasing the quantities of illegal weapons and ammunition in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the reporting period 1,720 small arms have been collected, 14,000 rounds of ammunition, 491 hand grenades, 8.5 kg of explosives and 480 other items (mines, rockets, etc.).

9. On 27 February 2007, the European Union took the decision to reconfigure EUFOR taking into account the security situation in the country as well as the impact on the regional security situation. As part of its overall engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union will retain a military presence in the country in order to continue contributing to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment. EUFOR will retain some 2,500 troops on the ground, backed up by over-the-horizon reserves, ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country and to provide reassurance.

IV. Outlook

10. The implementation of the EUFOR reconfiguration will continue over the coming months and is expected to be complete by June 2007.

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Agenda item 26
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 10 May 2007 from the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its field mission to Sierra Leone, which took place from 19 to 25 March 2007.

In his letter dated 21 June 2006, the President of the Security Council requested the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission on the situation in Burundi and the situation in Sierra Leone. The attached report summarizes in particular the gaps in terms of meeting peacebuilding priorities that will continue to constitute obstacles to longer-term development in Sierra Leone, and also highlights the important progress that the country has made towards achieving sustainable peace.

The mission was conducted with the aim of obtaining first-hand information about the situation in the country and assessing challenges to peacebuilding; discussing with the Government and other stakeholders gaps within priority areas for peacebuilding and the development of an integrated framework/strategy for peacebuilding; and communicating the main principles and purposes of the Peacebuilding Commission to stakeholders on the ground.

The mission identified a number of gaps in peacebuilding priorities, including lack of capacity and availability of adequate resources; a limited role and capacity of the legislative branch and limited dialogue among political parties; a low participation rate of women in the political process; economic insecurity due to poverty; lack of access to justice; lack of employment opportunities, in particular for the large youth population; the proliferation of small arms; inadequate energy supply; weak State capacity to deliver basic services; and continued instability in the region.

The mission also noted that the Government of Sierra Leone, with the support of the international community, has undertaken a number of initiatives to address those remaining challenges. In order to ensure that the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission with Sierra Leone strengthens initiatives and enhances

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peace consolidation efforts, the Government of Sierra Leone and the Commission have agreed to develop a compact as a medium-term framework for cooperation. The compact will serve as a framework for mutual accountability and will track commitments and actions to be undertaken by the Government and supported by the Commission.

The support of the General Assembly and the Security Council for the development of the compact and its implementation will be critical to its success. The Assembly and the Council may wish to call on all stakeholders, including the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone and the United Nations country team in Sierra Leone, and on bilateral and multilateral partners, to fully engage in the development of the compact and its timely implementation.

A critical milestone for continued progress in Sierra Leone's peacebuilding efforts, as well as for the development of the compact, will be the country's upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections. Every effort should be made to encourage all stakeholders in Sierra Leone to support the upcoming elections and to ensure that appropriate follow-up mechanisms are in place to address any election-related challenges.

The completion of the Commission's first field mission marks a new stage in its work in ensuring sustainable peace in the countries with which it is engaged, including through the establishment of integrated peacebuilding strategies, and provides an opportunity to update the members of the General Assembly and the Security Council on developments and progress achieved thus far.

As we take up our task of writing the Peacebuilding Commission's first annual report, let me assure you of our commitment to keep the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations bodies abreast of our deliberations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the attached report of the Peacebuilding Commission circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 26, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ismael Abraão **Gaspar Martins**
Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission mission to Sierra Leone

19-25 March 2007

I. Background

1. At its fifth meeting, on 21 February 2007, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission decided that the Commission would undertake field visits to Sierra Leone and Burundi. The mission to Sierra Leone took place from 19 to 25 March 2007. The nine-member delegation of the Commission was led by the Ambassador of the Netherlands, in his capacity as Chairman of the country-specific configuration on Sierra Leone, and included representatives of Angola, Brazil, China, Croatia, Egypt, Guinea, Ghana and India. The primary purposes of the mission were to (a) obtain first-hand information about the situation in Sierra Leone and assess challenges to peacebuilding, (b) discuss with the Government and other stakeholders gaps within priority areas for peacebuilding and the development of an integrated framework/strategy for peacebuilding and (c) communicate the main principles and purposes of the Peacebuilding Commission to stakeholders on the ground. The full terms of reference and composition of the mission are set out in the annex to the present report.

2. The primary message of the mission was the assurance that the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission is for the medium term and is aimed at maintaining sustained international attention and support for Sierra Leone's efforts for sustainable peacebuilding. The Commission's efforts could include bringing together all relevant actors, marshalling resources and advising on integrated strategies for peacebuilding. An important outcome of the mission was an understanding and a commitment from the Sierra Leone Government on the next steps forward for the Commission's engagement with the country. The visit also reinforced the conviction that the Commission can play an important role in Sierra Leone, in particular in fostering greater dialogue and coordination among all stakeholders working on peace consolidation.

3. The mission met with the President, the Vice-President, the Chief Justice, the Speaker of the Parliament, the President of the Special Court, cabinet ministers and members of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone, as well as representatives of the major political parties, the United Nations, bilateral and multilateral partners, civil society and regional and subregional organizations. In addition to Freetown, the mission visited Makeni in the Northern Province and Kenema in the Eastern Province.

4. The members of the mission express appreciation to the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations team for their support and assistance during the visit.

II. General observations

5. Since the signing of the Lomé Peace Agreement in 1999, the Government and the people of Sierra Leone and international partners have made significant progress in rebuilding the country and securing peace. The Government, with support from the United Nations and other multilateral and bilateral partners, has developed a

number of strategies for peace and development, such as Vision 2025, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Peace Consolidation Strategy, the Improved Governance and Accountability Pact and the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The mission noted a growing awareness that those strategies and the Government's engagement with the international community need to result in concrete peace dividends for the people of Sierra Leone. Capacity-building and the availability of adequate resources were highlighted as critical in that regard.

6. The delegation noted a number of positive developments in the political sphere in Sierra Leone, for example, in relation to the openness of the political space, media freedom and freedoms of speech and association. Since the peaceful multiparty elections of 2002, there have been many signs of institutionalization of democratic practices, such as the creation of the Human Rights Commission and the commencement of a process of constitutional review. However a number of shortcomings remain to be addressed, such as the low participation rate of women in the political process, the limited role and capacity of the legislative branch and limited dialogue among political parties.

7. It was highlighted that political developments need to be matched by progress in the economic and social spheres. The majority of the population remains extremely insecure because of poverty, lack of access to justice, lack of employment opportunities, high crime rates and corruption. The situation is even more difficult for young people and women, who face additional marginalization and discrimination, Many of the root causes of conflict, such as lack of employment for the large youth population, the proliferation of small arms, inadequate State capacity to deliver basic services, corruption and instability in the region, persist today. The important role of the Peacebuilding Commission in supporting the national Government and other stakeholders in their continued efforts for peace consolidation was highlighted in this context.

8. The mission also observed a generally limited awareness among all partners in Sierra Leone about the work of the Peacebuilding Commission as separate from the Peacebuilding Fund. Many stakeholders in the country remain primarily focused on the disbursement of the $35 million allocated to Sierra Leone by the Peacebuilding Fund. The mission of the Peacebuilding Commission to Sierra Leone contributed to clarifying the differences between the Commission and the Fund and that the Commission's engagement with Sierra Leone is for the medium rather than the short term and goes beyond resource mobilization. The mission stressed the need to ensure regular information flow between the Commission and stakeholders in Sierra Leone.

9. At the meeting with civil society representatives, the delegation was pleased to learn that a number of consultations have been organized by civil society groups in partnership with the Government and international actors to raise awareness about the work of the Commission and ensure the full participation of civil society in the process. The mission highlighted the need to build on this awareness-raising through capacity-building of civil society organizations and women's groups, especially in rural communities.

III. Key issues

Youth employment and empowerment

10. Youth unemployment was identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as one of the root causes of the civil war and was widely noted to be a continued threat to peace consolidation. The Government defines youth as the group of persons between 15 and 35 years of age, which includes 2 million people out of a total population of about 5 million. Two thirds of the youth population is unemployed and largely marginalized from the political system, and lacks adequate education and training. Significantly, many of the dire conditions that gave rise to the conflict in 1991 remain in 2006, with many youths unemployed, marginalized and lacking hope for the future.

11. In a meeting with cabinet members, including the Minister of Youth and Sports, the mission learned of a number of ongoing initiatives to address the situation of young men and women. In response to the growing problem of youth unemployment, in November 2006 the Government launched a youth employment scheme aimed at generating up to 135,000 short-term jobs for young people. The Government has also developed a national youth plan to address not only the question of employment for young people but also their full participation in the political process and protection of their human rights. The Mano River Union and the United Nations teams in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire have also selected youth employment as one of the areas on which to focus their work.

12. The President, a number of senior officials and representatives of civil society underscored that in order to ensure sustainable employment for youth, there is a need for economic growth and private-sector development, the precondition for which is the availability of electricity, water and other basic infrastructure. It was also stressed that in order to ensure greater participation of youth, especially young women, in the political process and public life, there is a need for capacity-building and review of discriminatory practices and laws.

Good governance

13. Sierra Leone will hold presidential and parliamentary elections on 28 July 2007. A national referendum on amendments to the Constitution is also foreseen during the elections, based on the work of the Law Reform Commission. Those elections represent an important milestone in the consolidation of peace in the country. A number of confidence-building and risk-reduction measures have been put in place in the lead-up to the elections by the Government of Sierra Leone, with the support of international partners, especially the United Nations, such as the Political Parties Code of Conduct, the Media Code of Conduct and support for the National Electoral Commission and the Political Parties Registration Commission.

14. Voter registration for the elections was undertaken over a period of 21 days in February and March. Over 2.6 million voters were registered, 49 per cent of them women. On the basis of the population census of 2004, the figures show that 91 per cent of those aged 18 and over have registered to vote. Election preparations appeared to be well on track. The delegation stressed the need to increase dialogue among political parties and build confidence among the general population in the electoral process and institutions such as the National Electoral Commission and the

Political Parties Registration Commission. It was also noted that due attention should be given to post-election issues, such as the acceptance of election results.

15. In a number of meetings the delegation discussed issues of corruption. It was noted that according to the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, "endemic corruption was a central factor that produced the dire conditions that made civil war inevitable". There was a general sense that capacity-building efforts and a review of salary rates for public-service professionals should be undertaken as part of the anti-corruption work. The mission also stressed the need to provide additional support for the work of the Anti-Corruption Commission, which currently does not have the capacity to prosecute its own cases. Some of the development partners and civil society representatives noted that there was a growing perception among the population that the Anti-Corruption Commission is ineffective.

16. The mission also discussed an ongoing initiative undertaken by the Government of Sierra Leone and its partners in the area of good governance and strengthening accountability. In this context, the Improved Governance and Accountability Pact, signed in July 2006 by the Government and the four donors who provide direct budgetary support, was noted as a particularly important effort that requires further follow-up.

Justice sector and security sector reform

17. According to the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, failures in the justice system were one of the root causes of the conflict in Sierra Leone. A number of initiatives are under way to rebuild the institutions of justice in Sierra Leone and ensure access to justice for all. As part of the Justice Sector Development Programme, the Government has developed a national policy framework for the justice sector and a justice sector reform strategy for 2008-2010. However, the mission noted that in both the short and the medium term additional efforts are needed for legal reform, harmonization of customary and traditional justice, addressing the backlog of court cases, overcrowded conditions in the prisons and the low capacity of justice sector professionals.

18. In terms of security sector reform, the delegation was informed about many successful efforts, such as the professionalization and reduction in the size of the armed forces and completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. However, it was stressed that the living conditions of armed forces personnel remain poor and that 57 per cent of military personnel lack adequate housing. Continued efforts are also needed for the reintegration of former combatants, especially child soldiers.

19. It was noted by Government representatives and a number of development partners that the reform of the police has to a large extent been successful. However, a number of actions are still needed, such as strengthening the family support units to address issues such as gender-based violence, enhancing police-community relations and capacity-building and training for the police, especially in the lead-up to the national and local elections in 2007 and 2008.

20. While visiting Kenema, the mission met with the local police chief and observed police training exercises for effective crowd control. This effort of the Government of Sierra Leone is being supported by the United Nations and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DfID) in the lead-up to

the national elections in July. During a visit to a district prison and a district-level magistrate court, the mission discussed short- and medium-term challenges of the justice sector, such as the need to harmonize traditional and customary laws and address the backlog of court cases.

Capacity-building

21. The delegation noted an overwhelming need for capacity-building in the Government, the national Parliament and civil society organizations. In the meeting with the Speaker of the Parliament it was noted that the Sierra Leone Parliament is heavily dependent on the central Government and lacks the basic capacity to perform its role as an independent branch of the Government. Additional efforts are also needed to build the capacity of the civil service and ensure a higher proportion of women and young people in the civil service through the proposed senior executive service reform.

Cross-cutting issues

22. In discussing peacebuilding priorities with various stakeholders, the delegation observed the recurrence of a number of cross-cutting issues, such as the need to address gender and human rights concerns and ensure basic levels of infrastructure and service provision. While meeting with members of the Human Rights Commission, the Peacebuilding Commission delegation expressed the hope that the Human Rights Commission would provide the needed follow-up and monitoring for the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

23. In a meeting with civil society organizations, women's groups welcomed the setting up of the Constitutional Review Committee and called for the removal of section 27(4) (d) of the Sierra Leone Constitution, which exempts certain areas of the law, such as adoption, marriage and divorce, from protection against discrimination. The women's groups also stressed the need to support the newly created Human Rights Commission and expedite the consideration of the draft bills on domestic violence, on registration of customary marriages and divorce and on intestate succession in the Parliament.

24. All partners noted that energy is a prerequisite for development; without energy it would be impossible to attract foreign investment and develop sustainable economic opportunities for the population. The need to support the Government's efforts in this area was stressed in almost every meeting. In particular, the Government representatives stressed the need to complete the Bumbuna hydroelectric project in late 2007. Financing for the completion of that project has been envisaged to be on commercial terms; however, negotiations between the Government and the contractor have not yet been completed, and the outcome is uncertain.

Regional dimensions of peace consolidation

25. The Peacebuilding Commission delegation met with the Secretary-General of the Mano River Union and discussed the need to strengthen and revitalize its capacity to address cross-border issues such as refugees, the proliferation of small arms, criminal activity, smuggling of resources and remaining border disputes. The Secretary-General noted that the Mano River Union seriously lacks capacity to be

able to adequately address important regional issues relevant to peace consolidation in Sierra Leone and the broader region. The delegation stressed that subregional dimensions of peace consolidation are critical and need to be fully reflected in the Commission's work on Sierra Leone.

International support for the peacebuilding efforts of Sierra Leone

26. A number of bilateral and multilateral partners have been assisting the Government of Sierra Leone in peace consolidation and development. The mission learned that development assistance to Sierra Leone in 2006 amounted to $286 million, which represented a slight increase from 2005 and represented 30 per cent of the national budget. Development assistance is given in a variety of forms, including direct budget support, balance of payments assistance, support for programmes and projects and assistance given through non-governmental organizations and the various United Nations agencies. Four donors — the European Commission, DfID, the African Development Bank and the World Bank — provide a significant percentage of their assistance as direct budgetary support through a multi-donor budgetary support framework.

27. The Government established the Development Partnership Committee in 2003 to monitor the implementation of the benchmarks in the poverty reduction strategy paper and provide coordination for donor assistance. However, additional efforts are needed to enhance donor-Government coordination and dialogue. It was noted during the mission that some bilateral donors have withdrawn or significantly decreased their contributions, especially in the area of good governance. On the other hand, the Government expressed the view that the donors are not sensitive to the special needs of Sierra Leone as a post-conflict country with limited capacity to implement projects and report on some of the benchmarks. The Peacebuilding Commission could play a critical role in strengthening dialogue between the Government and its international partners as well as broadening the donor base in Sierra Leone.

28. The absence of a clear national policy on aid coordination was highlighted as a constraining factor for effective aid coordination. The need to develop such a policy in order to promote effective resource mobilization and allocation, strengthen dialogue among donor partners and the Government and uphold mutual accountability was stressed by the Sierra Leone Government and development partners. The delegation noted that the groundwork for an aid policy had begun in late 2006 and that there was a growing commitment to complete a full aid policy by the end of 2007.

Recommendations and next steps for the Peacebuilding Commission

29. The mission and the Government of Sierra Leone agreed on the need to develop an integrated strategic framework for the Peacebuilding Commission's medium-term engagement with the country. That framework will clearly outline the commitments of the Government of Sierra Leone and the international community. The delegation stressed that the development of the framework will be firmly vested with the Sierra Leone Government, supported by the United Nations, civil society and multilateral and bilateral partners through a consultative process. The framework will be used to assess progress and ensure follow-up to agreed

commitments. It could also support additional resource mobilization and ensure sustained international attention for Sierra Leone's peacebuilding process.

30. It was agreed that the integrated strategic framework for peacebuilding will build on and strengthen existing frameworks, such as the poverty reduction strategy paper and the peace consolidation strategy, rather than replace them. It will highlight critical peacebuilding priorities from those documents and increase the coherence of both the United Nations system and bilateral actors in addressing them.

31. The mission further clarified that the Commission's process of articulating a framework with Sierra Leone will not be directly linked to the Peacebuilding Fund disbursement, although Fund priorities will be covered broadly by the framework. The framework will govern the medium-term relationship between the Commission and Sierra Leone and will therefore extend beyond the role of the Peacebuilding Fund in providing an immediate and short-term response to peacebuilding challenges.

32. The upcoming meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission on Sierra Leone were also discussed, and it was noted that there was a need to hold two informal meetings, one on youth employment and the other on capacity-building, in May. Those meetings would provide an opportunity to learn more about the challenges and initiatives in those peacebuilding priority areas. It was also agreed that a formal, country-specific meeting on Sierra Leone would take place in early May in order to discuss the first draft of an integrated peacebuilding framework.

Annex

Terms of reference and composition of the Peacebuilding Commission delegation to Sierra Leone

1. The Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, at its fifth meeting, on 21 February 2007, decided that the Commission would make field visits to Sierra Leone and Burundi. The visit to Sierra Leone would take place from 19 to 25 March 2007.

Terms of reference

2. The mission has the following objectives:

(a) Obtain first-hand information about the situation on the ground and assess challenges to peacebuilding;

(b) Discuss with the Government and other stakeholders priority areas for peacebuilding, the development of an integrated framework for peacebuilding and how the Commission can best support national peacebuilding efforts;

(c) Focus the attention of the international community on peacebuilding efforts in Sierra Leone and communicate the main principles and purposes of the Commission.

Composition

3. The Organizational Committee decided that the participants in the field visit would be chosen on a regional basis, one representative from each of the five regional groups, plus one representative from among the non-members of the Organizational Committee participating in the country-specific meetings and the Chairmen of the country-specific meetings.

4. The delegation to Sierra Leone will include:

Frank Majoor (Netherlands) (head of mission)
Tete Antonio (Angola)
Piragibe dos Santos Tarragô (Brazil)
Wenju Cheng (China) (Ambassador to Sierra Leone)
Amir Muharemi (Croatia)
Mahmoud Yehia Ezzat (Egypt) (Ambassador to Sierra Leone)
Leslie Christian (Ghana)
Alpha Ibrahima Sow (Guinea)
Amarendra Khatua (India) (Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire)
Bartjan Wegter (Netherlands)
Ejeviome Eloho Otobo (Peacebuilding Support Office)
Vina Nadjibulla (Peacebuilding Support Office)

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Sixty-second year

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Identical letters dated 10 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to inform you of the highly disturbing escalation in the number of terror attacks by Palestinian terrorists operating in the Gaza Strip over the last month.

From Monday, 16 April 2007, until yesterday, Wednesday, 9 May 2007, 58 rockets were fired by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip at Israeli communities in the south. These rocket attacks included the launching of Qassams and mortar shells, 22 of which detonated in Israeli territory. The rockets caused injury to civilians and property, and numerous civilians were treated for shock.

These relentless Palestinian terror attacks are in violation of the November 2006 ceasefire, which was agreed upon between Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and President Mahmoud Abbas. The Palestinian government, which Hamas still plays a significant role in, must adhere to the three conditions of the international community, and put an end to the violence and terror against Israel.

With the continuation of Palestinian terror and violence, the prospects for peace in the region deteriorate. Over the past month, we have witnessed an intensification and a broadening in the range of the rocket fire. As such, Israel will be forced to consider alternative approaches to confronting the terror.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 14, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-34081 (E) 140507

United Nations S/2007/271

Security Council

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14 May 2007
English
Original: French

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions and the statements of its President concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Reaffirming its commitment to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling the support it provided, in particular through the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), for the process of the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition, signed in Pretoria on 17 December 2002, and for the elections that represented the culmination of that process, and *reaffirming* its commitment to continue to contribute to the consolidation of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the post-transition period,

Stressing the primary responsibility of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for ensuring security in its territory and protecting its civilians with respect for the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law,

Deploring again the violence and loss of lives which occurred in late January and early February 2007 in the province of Bas-Congo and from 22 to 25 March 2007 in Kinshasa, *encouraging* the Congolese authorities and MONUC to continue and complete the necessary investigations into these events, *regretting* the use of violence, instead of dialogue, to resolve disputes, and *urging* all Congolese stakeholders to pursue negotiated solutions to their differences with respect for the constitutional framework and the law,

Paying tribute to the international community for the assistance provided to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, *encouraging* the maintenance of that assistance, and *underlining* its commitment to the continuation of a regular political dialogue with the Congolese authorities,

Recalling the importance of elections, including the forthcoming local elections, as a milestone for the longer term restoration of peace and stability, national reconciliation and establishment of the rule of law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling also the importance of urgently carrying out security sector reform and of disarming, demobilizing, resettling or repatriating, as appropriate, and

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reintegrating Congolese and foreign armed groups for the long-term stabilization of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the contribution made by international partners in this field,

Reiterating its grave concern at the presence of armed groups and militias in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in the Ituri district and in North and South Kivu, which perpetuate a climate of insecurity in the whole region,

Deploring again the persistence of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular those carried out by these militias and armed groups and by elements of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), the Congolese National Police (PNC) and other security and intelligence services, and *stressing* the urgent need for those responsible for these crimes to be brought to justice,

Recalling its resolution 1612 (2005) on children in armed conflict and the subsequent conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict pertaining to parties in the armed conflict of the Democratic Republic of Congo (S/2006/724),

Calling attention to the grave humanitarian situation that persists in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and *calling on* Member States to continue to provide assistance in that regard,

Taking note with satisfaction of the adoption of the programme of the Government, in particular the governance contract included therein, *calling on* the Government to ensure the full implementation of the contract and *welcoming* the Country Assistance Framework Process as a common strategic approach for assistance to the DRC and as a mechanism to implement the priorities set out in the DRC's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for 2007-2010,

Condemning the continuing illicit flow of weapons within and into the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and *declaring its determination* to closely monitor implementation of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1493 (2003) and expanded by resolution 1596 (2005), and to continue enforcing the measures provided for in paragraphs 13 and 15 of resolution 1596 (2005), in paragraph 2 of resolution 1649 (2005) and in paragraph 13 of resolution 1698 (2006),

Recognizing the link between the illegal exploitation of natural resources, the illicit trade in such resources and the proliferation and trafficking of arms as one of the factors fuelling and exacerbating conflicts in the Great Lakes region of Africa, and in particular in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and *urging* all States, especially those in the region, to take appropriate steps to end these illegal activities,

Welcoming the signing in Nairobi on 15 December 2006 of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, the first meeting of parliamentarians of the Great Lakes region held in Kinshasa from 26 to 28 February 2007, and the resumption of the activities of the Economic Community of the countries of the Great Lakes region (CEPGL),

Taking note of the twenty-third report of the Secretary-General on MONUC, dated 20 March 2007 (S/2007/156), and of its recommendations,

Noting that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to pose a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides* to extend the deployment of MONUC until 31 December 2007 and *authorizes* the continuation until that date of up to 17,030 military personnel, 760 military observers, 391 police trainers and 750 personnel of formed police units;

2. *Decides* that MONUC will have the mandate, within the limits of its capabilities and in its areas of deployment, to assist the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in establishing a stable security environment in the country, and, to that end, to:

Protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel and facilities

(a) Ensure the protection of civilians, including humanitarian personnel, under imminent threat of physical violence;

(b) Contribute to the improvement of the security conditions in which humanitarian assistance is provided, and assist in the voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

(c) Ensure the protection of United Nations personnel, facilities, installations and equipment;

(d) Ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel;

(e) Carry out joint patrols with the riot control units of the national police to improve security in the event of civil disturbance;

Territorial security of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

(f) Observe and report in a timely manner on the position of armed movements and groups and the presence of foreign military forces in the key areas of volatility, especially by monitoring the use of landing strips and the borders, including on the lakes;

(g) Monitor the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraph 20 of resolution 1493 (2003) as amended and expanded by paragraph 1 of resolution 1596 (2005), in cooperation, as appropriate, with the Governments concerned and with the Group of Experts established by resolution 1533 (2004), including by inspecting, as it deems necessary and without notice, the cargo of aircraft and of any transport vehicle using the ports, airports, airfields, military bases and border crossings in North and South Kivu and in Ituri;

(h) Seize or collect, as appropriate, the arms and any related materiel whose presence in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo violates the measures imposed by paragraph 20 of resolution 1493 (2003) as amended and expanded by paragraph 1 of resolution 1596 (2005), and to dispose of such arms and related materiel as appropriate;

(i) Provide assistance, where it has a permanent presence, to the competent customs authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in implementing the provisions of paragraph 10 of resolution 1596 (2005);

(j) Assist the Government in enhancing its demining capacity;

Disarmament and demobilization of foreign and Congolese armed groups

(k) Deter any attempt at the use of force to threaten the political process from any armed group, foreign or Congolese, particularly in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including by using cordon and search tactics to prevent attacks on civilians and disrupt the military capability of illegal armed groups that continue to use violence in those areas;

(l) Support operations led by the FARDC integrated brigades deployed in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including by undertaking the steps listed in paragraph 75, subparagraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the Secretary-General's third special report on MONUC (S/2004/650), in accordance with internationally recognized standards and norms on human rights and international humanitarian law, with a view to:

- Disarming the recalcitrant local armed groups in order to ensure their participation in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the release of children associated with those armed groups;
- Disarming the foreign armed groups in order to ensure their participation in the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration process and the release of children associated with those armed groups;
- Preventing the provision of support to illegal armed groups, including support derived from illicit economic activities;

(m) Facilitate the voluntary demobilization and repatriation of disarmed foreign combatants and their dependants;

(n) Contribute to the implementation of the national programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of Congolese combatants and their dependants, with particular attention to children, by monitoring the disarmament process and providing as appropriate security in some sensitive locations, as well as supporting reintegration efforts pursued by the Congolese authorities in cooperation with the United Nations Country Team and bilateral and multilateral partners;

Security sector reform

(o) Provide in the short term basic training, including in the area of human rights, international humanitarian law, child protection and the prevention of gender-based violence, to various members and units of the FARDC integrated brigades deployed in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to enhancing their capacity to carry out the missions referred to in subparagraph (l) above;

(p) In coordination with international partners, continue to develop the capacities of the Congolese national police and related law enforcement agencies in accordance with internationally recognized standards and norms on human rights, proportionate use of force and criminal justice, including the prevention,

investigation and prosecution of cases of gender-based violence, by providing technical assistance, training and mentoring support;

(q) In coordination with international partners, advise the Government in strengthening the capacity of the judicial and correctional systems, including the military justice system;

(r) In coordination with international partners, contribute to the efforts of the international community to assist the Government in the initial planning process of the reform of the security sector;

3. *Decides* that MONUC will also have the mandate, in close cooperation with the Congolese authorities, the United Nations country team and donors, to support the strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, to that end, to:

(a) Provide advice to strengthen democratic institutions and processes at the national, provincial, regional and local levels;

(b) Promote national reconciliation and internal political dialogue, including through the provision of good offices, and support the strengthening of civil society;

(c) Assist in the promotion and protection of human rights, with particular attention to women, children and vulnerable persons, investigate human rights violations with a view to putting an end to impunity, assist in the development and implementation of a transitional justice strategy, and cooperate in national and international efforts to bring to justice perpetrators of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law;

(d) In close coordination with international partners and the United Nations Country Team, provide preliminary assistance to the Congolese authorities, including the National Independent Electoral Commission, in the organization, preparation and conduct of local elections, including the provision of advice, technical assistance and logistical support, and keep the Security Council closely informed of progress in this regard, including in the framework of the Secretary-General's periodic reports on MONUC;

(e) Assist in the establishment of a secure and peaceful environment for the holding of free and transparent elections;

(f) Contribute to the promotion of good governance and respect for the principle of accountability;

4. *Authorizes* MONUC to use all necessary means, within the limits of its capacity and in the areas where its units are deployed, to carry out the tasks listed in paragraph 2, subparagraphs (a) to (e), (g), (h), (k), (l) and (n), and in paragraph 3, subparagraph (e) above;

5. *Exhorts* the democratically elected authorities to respect the space and role conferred on the opposition parties by the Constitution in order to ensure their effective participation in the national political debate and *encourages* all parties to remain committed to the political process and national reconciliation in accordance with the constitutional framework and the law;

6. *Encourages* the Government and the principal partners of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to establish an effective arrangement for regular

consultations promoting a political dialogue aimed at enhancing understanding by key partners of the goals and initiatives of the Government, the continuation of international involvement and concerted efforts by the country's international partners to prevent or respond to crises;

7. *Urges* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to strengthen its efforts, with the support of the international community, including specialized international organizations, with a view to effectively extending the State's authority throughout its territory, establishing its control over the exploitation and export of natural resources, and improving the transparency of the management of the revenues from the exploitation of those natural resources;

8. *Requests* the Government, with the support of the international community, to develop as a matter of urgency a national security strategy and to plan and carry out security sector reform in order to establish professional security organizations in the areas of defence, police and the administration of justice that are well managed, protect civilians and act in accordance with the Constitution and with respect for the rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law;

9. *Calls on* the donor community to continue to be firmly committed to the provision of the urgent assistance needed for the integration, training and equipping of the Armed Forces and of the National Police of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as for the reform of the administration of justice and *urges* the Government and its partners, in particular the European Union, to agree promptly on ways to coordinate their efforts and to carry out security sector reform by building on the results already achieved;

10. *Demands* that the militias and armed groups that are still present in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo lay down their arms and engage voluntarily and without any further delay or preconditions in their demobilization, repatriation or resettlement, and reintegration;

11. *Urgently requests* the Government to develop in close coordination with MONUC, as a matter of priority as part of its effort to extend its authority throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a plan to ensure security in the eastern part of the country, particularly by carrying out the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation or resettlement, as appropriate, and reintegration of foreign and Congolese combatants, and by promoting national reconciliation, recovery and development in the region;

12. *Reiterates its call* upon the Congolese authorities to put an end to impunity, including by bringing to justice without delay perpetrators of grave violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, and to take into account when they select candidates for official positions, including key posts in the armed forces, national police and other security services, the candidates' past actions in terms of respect for international humanitarian law and human rights;

13. *Recalling* its resolution 1502 of 26 August 2003, *reaffirms* the obligation of all parties to comply fully with the relevant rules and principles of international humanitarian law relating to the protection of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, and *also demands* that all parties concerned grant immediate, full and unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to all persons in need of assistance, as provided for in applicable international law;

14. *Encourages* the Congolese authorities to continue their efforts, with the support of their international partners, to exercise effective, transparent and comprehensive control over State finances in order to put an end to impunity for those responsible for acts of embezzlement or corruption;

15. *Urges* all States, especially those in the region, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo itself, to take appropriate steps to end the illicit trade in natural resources, including if necessary through judicial means, and, where necessary, to report to the Council, and *calls upon* the international financial institutions to assist the Government of the DRC in establishing effective and transparent control over the exploitation of natural resources;

16. *Demands* that all parties cooperate fully with the operations of MONUC and that they ensure the security of as well as unhindered and immediate access for United Nations and associated personnel in carrying out their mandate, throughout the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, *demands* in particular that all parties provide full access to MONUC military observers, including in all ports, airports, airfields, military bases and border crossings, and, in addition, that MONUC human rights observers are granted access to prisons, and *requests* the Secretary-General to report without delay any failure to comply with these demands;

17. *Encourages* the international community to continue its support for the peace consolidation process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

18. *Further urges* all Governments in the region, in particular those of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, to resolve in a constructive manner their shared security and border problems and to prevent the use of their respective territories in support of violations of the arms embargo imposed by resolutions 1493 and 1596 or in support of activities of armed groups present in the region, in particular through the Tripartite Plus Joint Commission and through the implementation of the Security, Stability and Development Pact for the Great Lakes Region which they signed on 15 December 2006, and *calls on* the signatories to ratify the Pact at the earliest possible opportunity and to take the necessary measures for its prompt implementation;

19. *Welcomes* MONUC's policy to promote and protect the rights of women and to take into account gender considerations as set out in its resolution 1325 (2000) as a cross-cutting issue throughout its mandate and to keep the Council informed;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to continue to coordinate all the activities of the United Nations system in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that his Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, his Executive Representative for Burundi and his Special Representative for the Sudan coordinate the activities of MONUC, the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), within their respective mandates, inter alia:

- By sharing military information at their disposal, especially information concerning cross-border movements of armed elements and arms trafficking;
- By pooling their logistic and administrative resources, to an extent that does not prejudice the ability of these two Missions and the Office to carry out their

respective mandates, in order to ensure their maximum efficiency and cost-effectiveness;

– By coordinating, as appropriate, the implementation of national disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement programmes;

22. *Expressing* grave concern at the allegations of sexual exploitation and violence by civilian and military personnel of MONUC, *taking note* of the measures taken by MONUC to address instances of sexual exploitation and abuse and of the zero tolerance policy reiterated by the Secretary-General during his recent visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to fully investigate these allegations, to take the appropriate measures set out in the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13), and to keep the Council informed, *underlines* the importance of MONUC conducting training for the personnel concerned in order to ensure full compliance with its Code of Conduct regarding sexual misconduct, and *urges* troop-contributing countries to take appropriate disciplinary and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such misconduct involving their personnel;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep it informed periodically of developments in the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to submit to the Council by 15 November 2007 a report containing benchmarks and an indicative timetable for the gradual drawdown of MONUC;

24. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations A/61/905–S/2007/273

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 11, 62 (b) and 80

Prevention of armed conflict

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 3 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to forward a letter addressed to you from Mr. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea, concerning the issue of terrorism and the grave situation in Somalia, which I received today, 3 May 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 11, 62 (b) and 80, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Tesfa Alem **Seyoum**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-34136 (E) 150507

Annex to the letter dated 3 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Let me underline at the outset that my Government has been impelled to harbour strong reserv on the credibility and conduct of the UN Security Council. This emanates from repetitive, uns experiences that it has gleaned in a long time. Notwithstanding this fact, allow me to submit our and appeals in regard to some critical and timely issues; both for the record, and, for the sake respect of the rule of law as well as in fulfillment of our moral duties.

First: on the issue of terrorism and the "war on terror"

The underlying causes and rise of terrorism will doubtless require, even if uncontroversial, profound appraisal and scrutiny. For reasons of brevity, however, I do not wish to dwell on this of the phenomenon in this brief letter.

For a long time both before and especially after its independence, Eritrea has been tested as a and victim of terrorism. This assertion is not derived from some abstract or speculative analysi borne out by well-documented facts and events. The relentless struggle we have, and conti conduct, to combat terrorism is indeed well-known to everybody.

The tragic events of September 11 were critical in heightening international public awareness the real menace of terrorism. The "war against terror" that was launched in the aftermath of the incident has however drifted with time to assume preoccupying dimensions. In more blunt and terms, it would not be an exaggeration to state that "the war on terror has now been derailed".

The fact is many governments and political forces are misconstruing the catch-phrase, opportunistic manner and outside its real ambit, to advance their narrow, dominant interests, t justice, the rule of law, and, as a convenient tool for fabricating pretexts (as "a means for an These unscrupulous approaches and practices are engendering a spiral of ever-increasing annihi of populations, disruption of societies, intermittent crises and instability in various regions globe. What is ironic is that all these transgressions are being justified in the name of the "w terror".

Conscientious voices raised against the crimes perpetrated, or the convoluted policies pursued the rubric of "the war on terror" are invariably undermined and quelled through the logic of dece intimidation. The search for appropriate remedies is being frustrated and becoming increa elusive.

Unfortunately, the UN Security Council appears to be oblivious to these crimes and transgre that cannot be masked in any way. Had the Security Council shouldered its legal and responsibilities in the world as a whole and in the various sub-regions, the aberrations could been avoided. Sadly, the Security Council has become hostage to its structural flaws thereby for its accountability to its international constituency. Rectification has accordingly become a pipe d

Bleak as the current reality is, there is no doubt that truth and justice will ultimately prevail. And in this respect, we shall not cease from urging for corrective action.

Second: The problem of Somalia and the Security Council

It has almost been 16 years now since Somalia, whose flag is hoisted at the UN premises in New York as well as in other regional bodies, has virtually been erased from the world political map as a viable State and country. The primary cause and exacerbation of this reality has its own historical explanations. Internecine clan fighting is sometimes exaggerated beyond proportions and depicted as the primary malaise behind the turmoil. But the primary cause is in fact the incessant international and regional interferences pursued to achieve geopolitical objectives.

The endeavours exerted in the past 16 years to facilitate the reconstitution of Somalia in order to ensure the welfare of the Somali people and to promote regional stability have been numerous indeed. The Government that was established pursuant to the successful Arta Conference in Djibouti in 2004 was undermined and made to collapse through external interferences with the false claim that it was dominated by "terrorist elements". As a consequence of this act, Somalia became a battle ground for "the warlords" that was instigated externally. Several "war lords" were rewarded with military support as "anti-terrorists".

The "Transitional Government" was subsequently formed in 2005 mainly through the influence and manipulation of several external actors. The TFG was however incapable of asserting its power in Mogadishu remaining confined in Baidowa for obvious reasons.

The Somali people became tired of the interminable crises that was neither in their interest nor of their own making. In Mogadishu and other places, spontaneous undercurrents aspiring to achieve stability began to emerge and coalesce. The chorus for stability that arose in Mogadishu and other localities, and the UIC itself that emerged, did not spring up by design under the guidance of the UIC. Rather, they were the result and spontaneous manifestation of the popular wish of the Somali people. That promising stability, attested by the UN itself, was achieved in Mogadishu and its environs is indeed fresh in our memories.

To roll back the visible progress, an invasion was planned in mid 2006 in the name of the "war on terror". Provocative measures were taken in order to elicit reaction. In the end, the desired chaos was achieved.

Resolution 1725 that the UN Security Council adopted on 6 December 2006 (irrespective of our views) is to be remembered. However, because the "deterrent scheme" was already determined, the flagrant invasion was carried out by Ethiopia under the rubric of "the war against terror" without taking into account the wishes of the Somali people and in contravention of UN Resolution 1725. And yet, the Security Council and its member States endorsed the invasion; some through their silence and others through overt support.

But the matter did not end there. The resistance of the Somali people to invasion continued fervently. The popular resistance was again dubbed as "terrorism" and war unleashed in Mogadishu and its environs with tanks and artillery causing the death of civilians and dislocation of hundreds of thousands.

All this happened under the watch of the UN Security Council. The atrocities and crimes are being justified as collateral consequences of the "war on terror" and at times, as damages incurred by clan in-fighting. The mendacious campaign to justify invasion and injustices through various bogus pretexts will no doubt continue. But until when?

The deteriorating and dangerous situation in Somalia will not abate in spite of the oft-repeated claims by the invaders that "everything is under control". History and the experiences of the last few years illustrate that force and deceit will not solve what is essentially a political problem. To believe otherwise is mere illusion.

The invasion unleashed against Somalia in the name of the "war on terror" has aggravated the instability of our region in addition to the human toll and destruction that it is inflicting on the Somali people.

To ask "where is the UN Security Council?" may be considered as naivety. As I emphasized before and irrespective of our expectations, we wish to put on record our stance for the sake of justice and the respect of the rule of law and loudly urge the UN Security Council to shoulder its legal and moral responsibilities.

(*Signed*) Isaias **Afwerki**
President
The State of Eritrea

United Nations A/61/906–S/2007/274

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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 108 (m)
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 8 May 2007 from the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the occasion of the International Ministerial Conference of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain and the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council and the G-8, with the participation of the representatives of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the European Union, which was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 4 May 2007, the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Iraq, upon instructions from their respective Governments, request the circulation of the final statement of the Conference as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108 (m) and as a document of the Security Council (see annex).

(*Signed*) Maged **Abdelaziz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Hamid **Al Bayati**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations

07-34248 (E) 180507

Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2007 from the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic and English]

Final statement of the International Ministerial Conference of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq, Egypt and Bahrain and the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council and the G-8

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 4 May 2007

Upon the invitation of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Iraq, the Foreign Ministers of the neighbouring countries of Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain and the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council and the G-8 held a meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 4 May 2007, with the participation of the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League and the European Union, with the aim of helping the Iraqi people, their Government, and the Council of Representatives to build on the current political process, including the progress they have already achieved, in order to strengthen national unity, restore internal stability, promote inclusive political dialogue, achieve national reconciliation, and consolidate Iraqi sovereignty and independence.

Participating in the meeting were their Highnesses and Excellencies:

Bahrain — H. E. Sheikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa

Canada — H. E. Hon. Deepak Obhrai M. P.

China — H. E. Yang Jiechi

Egypt — H. E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit

France — H. E. Philippe Coste

Germany — H. E. Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Iran — H. E. Manouchehr Motaki

Iraq — H. E. Hoshyar Zebari

Italy — H. E. Massimo D'Alema

Japan — H. E. Taro Aso

Jordan — H. E. Abdel-Elah Al-Khatib

Kuwait — H. E. Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sabah

Russian Federation — H. E. Sergey V. Lavrov

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — HRH Prince Saud Al-Faisal

Syria — H. E. Walid Al-Moualem

Turkey — H. E. Mehmet Aydin

United Kingdom — H. E. Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett M. P.

United States of America — H. E. Dr. Condoleezza Rice

European Union — H. E. Javier Solana — H. E. Benita Ferrero-Waldner

United Nations — H. E. Ban Ki-moon

League of Arab States — H. E. Amre Moussa

Organization of Islamic Conference — H. E. Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu

The participants agreed to:

1. Reaffirm the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and national unity of Iraq and its Arab and Islamic identity; the inviolability of Iraq's internationally recognized borders; and their adherence to the principle of non-interference in Iraq's internal affairs and good neighbourly relations with all its neighbours, stressing the right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their political system and common future; and control their natural and financial resources, and emphasizing the necessity to reach mutual compromises to all existing disputes.

2. Support fully the efforts of the constitutionally-based elected Government and Council of Representatives of Iraq to achieve, in a speedy and effective manner, the goals of the Iraqi people for a prosperous, free, independent, united, democratic and federal Iraq, and the basic right of all Iraqi citizens to participate peacefully in the ongoing political process.

3. Condemn all acts of terrorism in all its forms in Iraq, notably against civilians, infrastructure, government institutions and holy places, and call for the immediate cessation of all such acts in order to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people and preserve the lives of the innocent and respect for their human rights; emphasizing their commitment to ensure respect for international law, and particularly for international humanitarian law.

4. Reaffirm, in this context, the obligation of all States, in accordance with international law, relevant international agreements and resolution 1546 of the United Nations Security Council and its other relevant resolutions, to combat terrorist activities and prevent the use by terrorists of their territory for supplying, organizing and launching terrorist operations; specifically they reiterate their call to prevent the transit of terrorists and arms to and from Iraq and re-emphasize the importance of strengthening cooperation between Iraq and its neighbouring countries to control their common borders.

5. Support the efforts of the Government of Iraq to strengthen national unity, ensure the safety and security of the Iraqi people, end violence, and further expand political participation by actively engaging all components of the Iraqi people in the ongoing political process and acting in a manner that ensures inclusiveness and paves the way for the success of national reconciliation; they encourage such inclusivity, reaffirm the commitment of the participants to help the Iraqi people achieve these objectives and call upon all components of the Iraqi people to participate actively in the political process.

6. Commend and encourage the Government of Iraq in its commitment to protect the people of Iraq by confronting violence without regard to sect or ethnicity; emphasize the importance of addressing sectarianism and disarming and dismantling all militias and illegally armed groups without exception; and reaffirm the necessity of eliminating terrorism, in accordance with international law, as the best means of ensuring the authority of the State, promoting national reconciliation and alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people.

7. Stress the need to assist the Government of Iraq in building up its defence and security forces on a national and professional basis; welcome offers by Arab and other countries to support the development of the professional capabilities of the Iraqi armed forces; and renew their support for the Government of Iraq's efforts to accelerate the preparedness of its armed forces to assume full security and defence

responsibilities in their country, which will pave the way for the conclusion of the mandate of the multinational forces, whose presence will not be open-ended, and will terminate upon the request of and in accordance with timing to be agreed by the Government of Iraq pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1546 and 1723.

8. Encourage all the relevant competent Iraqi authorities to continue constructive steps towards reviewing the Constitution, and other important legislation, including the de-baathification law, according to agreed constitutional mechanisms and in a manner that will promote national reconciliation.

9. Affirm that it is the responsibility of the Iraqi Government to pursue the above-mentioned objectives; the participants express their readiness to support the Government of Iraq in its efforts to achieve an inclusive and democratic Iraqi political system and a government of national unity for all Iraqis, and emphasize that the spirit of Iraqi citizenship should be the basis for building the new Iraq.

10. Support the establishment of the working groups headed by the Government of Iraq, and other working groups formed as requested by that government and as agreed with the participants in this conference, by active participation and the provision of technical assistance in the fields of energy and electricity, security and protection of both sides of common borders; and assistance to Iraqi displaced persons inside and outside Iraq; and call for the expeditious convening of these working groups.

11. Recognize the obligation of the international community in conformity with refugee and international humanitarian law to protect and assist displaced Iraqis and help neighbouring countries in addressing their immediate and foreseeable needs and guaranteeing their safety, by implementing the Framework agreed upon at the UNHCR International Conference on Iraq held in Geneva on 17 and 18 April 2007.

12. Commend, in this context, the efforts made by States hosting Iraqi displaced persons, in particular Syria and Jordan, and express their readiness to provide necessary assistance aimed at easing the suffering of the Iraqi people, and encourage the efforts exerted by the Iraqi Government to shoulder its responsibility vis-à-vis its citizens and to create the appropriate atmosphere for the safe return of displaced persons to their homes.

13. Emphasize once again the importance of the support of the United Nations, and the need to strengthen its central role in coordinating international assistance and in supporting the political process and national reconciliation; and welcome the role played by the League of Arab States to activate its national reconciliation initiative and call for the resumption of preparations to convene the reconciliation conference under its auspices at the earliest possible date. They also welcome the effective contribution of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the ongoing political process and its instrumental role in encouraging tolerance between the different sects in Iraq.

14. Welcome the launching of the International Compact with Iraq on 3 May 2007, in Sharm El-Sheikh, and call upon all countries to fulfil their commitments in this regard.

15. Commend the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq, Egypt and Bahrain for their continued efforts and meetings to discuss the developments in the political process

and ways and means of helping Iraq to achieve stability, security, unity and territorial integrity, and look forward to their future meetings.

16. Reiterate the importance of bringing to justice members of the previous Iraqi regime who committed war crimes against Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and crimes against humanity against the Iraqi people.

17. Note with satisfaction the increasing international engagement with regard to Iraq in different forums, such as the Sharm El-Sheikh meeting that took place on 23 November 2004, the Brussels Conference in June 2005 and the Baghdad meeting of 10 March 2007, and underline their readiness to continue to contribute to such multilateral initiatives.

18. With the agreement of the Government of Iraq, establish a follow-up group composed of their senior officials to regularly review progress in implementing the conclusions reached at this conference.

19. Express their appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the conference, and agree to hold their next ministerial meeting in Istanbul, Turkey.

United Nations S/2007/275

Security Council

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Thirteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. In its presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/8), issued on 28 March 2007, the Security Council welcomed the agreement signed by President Laurent Gbagbo and Mr. Guillaume Soro in Ouagadougou on 4 March 2007 (S/2007/144), under the facilitation of the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso. The Council also expressed its readiness to take further steps to help the parties in implementing the agreement and requested me to submit, by 15 May 2007, recommendations on the role that the United Nations should play in that regard. The present report, which is based on the findings of a multidisciplinary technical assessment mission that visited Côte d'Ivoire from 10 to 22 April 2007, provides the requested recommendations.

II. The Ouagadougou agreement

2. The Ouagadougou agreement seeks to resolve the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire by merging the Forces nouvelles and the national defence and security forces through the establishment of an integrated command centre; replacing the zone of confidence with a green line marked by UNOCI observation points that would be dismantled gradually; deploying mixed Forces nouvelles and national police units to maintain law and order in the area formerly covered by the zone of confidence; re-establishing State administration throughout the country; dismantling the militias; disarming combatants and enrolling them in a civic service programme; granting amnesty for all crimes relating to national security committed between September 2000 and the date of signing of the agreement; simplifying and accelerating the identification of the population and the registration of voters; and organizing a free, fair, open and transparent presidential election, in accordance with the Linas-Marcoussis and Pretoria agreements. The agreement also provides for the creation of new institutional arrangements to implement these tasks, including a new transitional Government.

3. In order to facilitate monitoring of the peace process, the agreement created two new follow-up mechanisms. The first is a standing consultative mechanism comprising President Gbagbo, Prime Minister Soro, former President Henri Konan

Bedié, former Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara and the facilitator, President Compaoré. This mechanism will address all arising issues pertaining to the agreement. The second mechanism is an evaluation and monitoring committee, to be chaired by a representative of the facilitator, which will comprise three representatives each from the two signatory parties. The two parties may decide to include other Ivorian parties in the committee, while the facilitator may also call upon any member of the international community to participate in the committee, as he deems appropriate. The monitoring and evaluation committee's role is to assess the implementation of the agreement and offer recommendations on measures to facilitate the peace process. Any disagreements relating to the interpretation or implementation of the agreement will be settled through arbitration by the facilitator.

4. The schedule of implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement sets out the following key timelines: setting up of the integrated command centre beginning on 18 March 2007 (two weeks after the signing of the agreement); establishment of the institutional framework for implementing the agreement starting on 1 April (four weeks after the signing of the agreement); formation of the new interim government by 8 April (five weeks after the signing of the agreement); removal of the zone of confidence and creation of the mixed police and military units beginning on 15 April (one week after the formation of the new government); dismantling and disarmament of the militias starting on 23 April (two weeks after the formation of the new government), to be completed within two weeks (by 7 May); cantonment of the former fighting forces, storage of their weapons under the supervision of the impartial forces (United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the Licorne troops) and the re-establishment of State administration throughout the country and the launching of mobile court hearings, all starting by 23 April (seven weeks after the signing of the agreement); voter registration and identification beginning on 21 May (one month after the beginning of the mobile courts hearings); unification of the two forces and enrolment of ex-combatants into the civic service programme starting on 5 June (15 days after the beginning of the voter registration process); and preparation and issuance of identity cards and voters' cards beginning once the voters register is officially adopted. The schedule envisages completion of all these tasks within a period of 10 months, that is by 4 January 2008, followed by the organization of a presidential election. The agreement does not, however, set the date for the elections.

5. On 26 March 2007, President Gbagbo and Guillaume Soro signed a supplementary agreement designating Mr. Soro as the new Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire. The supplementary agreement stipulated that Mr. Soro will remain in office until the holding of the presidential election. It also barred him from standing as a candidate for that election. The agreement further stated that the new Prime Minister would be accorded specific powers for the purpose of implementing the Ouagadougou agreement. Both the Ouagadougou agreement and the supplementary agreement were endorsed by ECOWAS in its communiqués of 16 and 28 March, and by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in its communiqués of 19 and 29 March. The African Union transmitted the agreements to the Security Council, with a recommendation to endorse them and to consider a gradual drawdown of the impartial forces.

III. Status of implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement

6. Implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement started on schedule with the signing of a presidential decree establishing the integrated command centre on 16 March 2007. President Gbagbo and Prime Minister Soro subsequently inaugurated the headquarters of the command centre in Yamoussoukro, on 16 April.

7. Pursuant to chapter V of the agreement, on 7 April Prime Minister Soro announced a 33-member cabinet comprising 11 members from the ruling Ivorian Popular Front populaire ivoirien (FPI), seven from the Forces nouvelles and five each from the Rassemblement des Républicains (RDR), the Parti democratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI), smaller political parties and civil society. Four members of the cabinet are women, compared to six in the previous Government.

8. On 12 April, President Gbagbo, in keeping with chapter VI of the Ouagadougou agreement, issued an ordinance granting amnesty for crimes relating to national security committed between 17 September 2000 and the date of the signing of the agreement. Economic crimes, as well as war crimes and crimes against humanity were excluded from the amnesty.

9. In order to facilitate the lifting of the zone of confidence, on 11 April the Chiefs of Staff of the national defence and security forces and the Forces nouvelles, General Philippe Mangou and General Soumaila Bakayoko, as well as the Force Commanders of UNOCI and Licorne, signed an agreement nullifying "code 14" of 31 July 2005, which had provided the legal basis and security arrangements for the zone. At the request of the two Chiefs of Staff, UNOCI and Licorne subsequently assisted the integrated command centre to define the coordinates of the green line that will replace the zone of confidence.

10. The removal of the zone of confidence started as scheduled, on 16 April, with the dismantling of the UNOCI checkpoints at Tiebissou and Djébonoua, the installation of the first UNOCI observation post along the green line at Ngatta Dolikro, and the deployment of the first mixed police unit. Two more mixed units were deployed at Bangolo and Zeale, in the west, on 30 April. The lifting of the zone of confidence will be conducted progressively, based on the pace at which the integrated command centre puts together and deploys the mixed police units responsible for maintaining law and order in the area. In the meantime, UNOCI will continue to maintain check points and to conduct patrols in areas where the mixed police units have not yet been deployed.

11. The parties were unable to meet the 23 April deadline for starting the implementation of the more complex cluster of tasks consisting of the dismantling of the militias, the cantonment of combatants, the redeployment of State officials throughout the country and the launching of the mobile court hearings for the identification of the population. These tasks required more detailed technical planning than envisaged by the tight timelines set in the agreement.

12. The Prime Minister's office has initiated a series of workshops with the participation of relevant Government ministries, national implementing institutions and international partners, including UNOCI, the United Nations country team, the office of the High Representative for the elections, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the African Development Bank and the European Union, to develop the operational plans and budgets for these processes,

as well as for the electoral process and security sector reform. A national workshop chaired by Prime Minister Soro in Yamoussoukro on 2 May determined the cost and funding gaps of these processes, as follows: disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, approximately $100 million (funding gap: $78 million); the civic service programme, $41 million (fully funded by the Government); identification of the population, $37 million (shortfall: $33 million); elections, $72 million (funding gap: $56 million); redeployment of State officials throughout the country, $41 million (shortfall: $29 million), national reconciliation, $4 million (shortfall: $4 million); and public information campaign, $825,000 (shortfall: $825,000). The Yamoussoukro workshop also designated the various national institutions that will be responsible for implementing these tasks and decided that a working group to be established by the Government would finalize the operational plans.

IV. Issues arising from the Ouagadougou agreement

13. The Ouagadougou agreement assigned most of the military tasks related to the peace process to the integrated command centre. The agreement was silent, however, on some major police and civilian tasks performed by the United Nations, including the United Nations role in the electoral process and the certification and arbitration role of the High Representative for the elections. It nevertheless mentioned a specific role for the United Nations in the following areas: overall supervision of the implementation of the disarmament and demobilization process; supervision of the cantonment of units of the former fighting forces and the storage of their weapons; and maintaining observation posts along the green line. The new follow-up mechanisms created by the agreement did not include the United Nations.

14. These aspects of the agreement, coupled with the ECOWAS and African Union recommendation to the Security Council to consider a gradual drawdown of the impartial forces (UNOCI and Licorne), as well as the announcement of Licorne's plans to downsize by one battalion by mid-May, created a widespread impression that the signatories to the Ouagadougou agreement were seeking a limited role for the United Nations in the peace process and expected a UNOCI drawdown. Furthermore, the ECOWAS and the African Union recommendation for a drawdown appeared to contradict the call in the agreement for the inclusion of more African troops in UNOCI. The purpose of the proposed additional troops therefore required clarification, since the agreement assigned all key military tasks to the integrated command centre.

15. The agreement was also silent on the important issue of promoting and monitoring human rights, which is crucial to the normalization of the political situation in Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, it did not explain the expected role of the International Working Group, established by the Security Council through its resolution 1633 (2005), and its relationship with the new follow-up and monitoring mechanisms.

16. In the light of the ambiguities emanating from these issues, the Security Council, in a press statement issued on 14 March 2007, encouraged me to discuss with President Compaoré and the Ivorian parties, the role they expected that the United Nations should play in the peace process. To that end, on 26 March 2007, I sent a letter to President Compaoré, seeking his views on these issues. In addition, I sent a technical assessment mission, led by the Assistant Secretary-General for

Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, to Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso to consult with the facilitator and the parties and to gather the information required to develop the recommendations requested by the Security Council.

17. In a letter dated 27 March 2007, President Compaoré informed me that the signatories to the Ouagadougou agreement expected the United Nations and the international community to continue to play an important role in the Ivorian peace process, in particular to support the implementation of the key tasks set out in the agreement. He also stated that the impartial forces were expected to work in collaboration with the integrated command centre to implement the tasks leading to the removal of the zone of confidence and to assist in providing security in the area. President Compaoré's letter further indicated that the United Nations should help to provide security for the elections and, in particular, observe the electoral process and provide technical advice to the Ivorian institutions.

V. Technical assessment mission

18. The technical assessment mission visited Côte d'Ivoire from 10 to 22 April 2007. Participants in the assessment mission included representatives of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Department of Public Information, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Department of Safety and Security and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

19. The assessment mission received detailed briefings from representatives of UNOCI, the United Nations country team, the World Bank, IMF, the African Development Bank and the Licorne force and consulted with a wide spectrum of national and international stakeholders, including President Gbagbo, Prime Minister Soro, the Chiefs of Staff of the Forces nouvelles and the national defence forces, the heads of the police forces on both sides and representatives of opposition political parties and national institutions responsible for implementing the key tasks set out in the Ouagadougou agreement. Consultations were also held with members of the diplomatic community, civil society and national and international non-governmental organizations.

20. The mission travelled to Daloa, Duékoué and Guiglo, in the volatile western part of the country, where it visited one of the newly established UNOCI observation posts along the green line and a camp for internally displaced persons. In addition, on 14 April, Mr. Annabi travelled to Ouagadougou for consultations with President Compaoré and his facilitation team. During a visit to South Africa on 19 April, Mr. Annabi used the opportunity to consult with President Thabu Mbeki's legal counsel and, on his way back to New York, met with senior French officials in Paris on 23 April, at their request.

VI. Findings of the technical assessment mission

21. The technical assessment mission's consultations with the parties and the facilitator helped to clarify the issues identified in section IV above. All national stakeholders, including the President, the Prime Minister and the facilitator, stressed that continued United Nations assistance for the peace process was essential. President Gbagbo publicly reaffirmed that view on 16 April when he officiated at the ceremonies marking the beginning of the removal of the zone of confidence.

22. The President and the Prime Minister explained that while the Ivorian parties have assumed ownership and leadership of the peace process, they expected the United Nations and other international partners to join the Ivorian institutions in carrying out the tasks set out in the agreement, providing the requisite resources, technical advice and logistical support and observing the implementation process. Prime Minister Soro emphasized that the Ivorian parties were just beginning to build mutual confidence and cautioned that a premature withdrawal of the impartial forces could precipitate a resumption of hostilities. The two leaders further confirmed that during the Ouagadougou talks the continued presence of the impartial forces in Côte d'Ivoire was not at issue and that neither they nor any other Ivorian leader had called for the withdrawal of UNOCI. This view was echoed by the facilitator during his meeting with Mr. Annabi on 14 April.

23. The Ivorian parties, including the President and the Prime Minister, presented a common view on the nature of the assistance they expect the United Nations to provide in specific areas, including the lifting of the zone of confidence, the restoration of law and order institutions in the north and west, the re-establishment of State administration and basic social services throughout the country, the disarmament of combatants and militias, the identification of the population, the protection of vulnerable populations, support for economic and social recovery and addressing the security and humanitarian situation, particularly in the western part of the country. President Gbagbo emphasized that, in accompanying, advising and assisting the Ivorian institutions as they carry out these tasks, the United Nations and other international partners should avoid substituting for, or imposing decisions on, the national institutions.

24. At the same time, the Ivorian authorities recognized the challenges emanating from the limited capacity of the key national institutions mandated to implement the tasks set out in the agreement. The newly formed integrated command centre and the mixed police units, which have the responsibility for performing crucial security tasks, face serious capacity constraints. While the two Chiefs of Staff have demonstrated commendable determination in providing effective and professional leadership to the integrated command centre and in pressing ahead with the implementation of the military tasks assigned to the centre, the requisite planning capacity, logistics, personnel and financial resources are not yet in place. Building the capacity of these key institutions will take time.

25. The President and the Prime Minister also called for an increased role for the development and humanitarian agencies of the United Nations in addressing the needs identified by the Government in the areas of economic recovery, resettlement of internally displaced persons, protection of vulnerable groups, restoration of basic services, rehabilitation of the infrastructure in the northern part of the country and support for the civic service programme. In addition, all Ivorian stakeholders,

including the President and the Prime Minister, appealed to the United Nations to increase the presence of its civilian personnel outside Abidjan and to reinforce its troop deployments in the western part of the country in order to effectively assist the local authorities in addressing the humanitarian and security challenges in that volatile region. The Chiefs of Staff from the two forces also emphasized the need to maintain and reinforce United Nations patrols in the areas along the border with Liberia and requested assistance in training and building the capacity of the police in the north and with their integration into the national police, within the context of security sector reform and the reunification of the country.

26. Both the Chief of Staff of the national defence and security forces and the President have drawn attention to the parties' request to the Security Council, contained in paragraph 6.1.2 of the Ouagadougou agreement, that it consider granting an exception to the arms embargo in order to allow the importation of riot control equipment and side arms for the national police. The Chief of Staff indicated that the exception should also include spare parts for the Government's military transport helicopter to facilitate travel throughout the country by personnel involved in the implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement. The assessment mission advised them on the established procedure for requesting exceptions to the arms embargo from the sanctions.

27. Concerning the challenges facing Government officials who must travel around the country in connection with the implementation of the agreement, Prime Minister Soro requested that the United Nations should consider allowing such officials to travel on its aircraft and vehicles. In a related request, civil society groups and national relief organizations suggested that UNOCI should use its engineering assets to assist in rehabilitating roads, bridges, schools and clinics in the communities in which they are deployed, especially in the western part of the country.

28. All national stakeholders, especially civil society organizations, were very concerned about the lack of adequate information among the population in the countryside on the Ouagadougou agreement. They emphasized that, in some areas, this had created unfounded anxieties about the security implications of lifting the zone of confidence. In this context, President Gbagbo requested the United Nations to assist the Government to expand the coverage of the national radio and television (RTI) throughout the country in order to enable the Government to sensitize the population on the reunification and reconciliation process. The office of the Prime Minister informed the technical assessment mission that it was developing a public information campaign to ensure that the population was fully informed about the peace process. The assessment mission stressed the need for Radio télévision ivorienne and Radio ONUCI-FM not only to expand their coverage, but also to enhance their collaboration and disseminate factual information about the peace process, where possible in the main local languages, and to work together with the more than 100 community radio broadcasters in the country.

29. On the same issue, national non-governmental organizations and civil society groups emphasized the importance of placing the state media under the management of professionals without political affiliations to ensure that they can objectively promote national unity and reconciliation. Furthermore, these organizations requested the United Nations and other international partners to help empower women, including through providing advice to the Government on gender

mainstreaming in various national institutions. They also called on the United Nations to pay particular attention to the special needs of women and children associated with the former fighting forces when supporting the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the envisaged civic service programme.

30. Reports from civil society groups about cases of misconduct by some UNOCI troops in Abidjan have been a major source of concern. The assessment mission was also informed that there were instances when UNOCI troops in the western part of the country had failed to intervene when civilians in their areas of deployment were under attack, including cases of gender-based violence. In that regard, they echoed the call to reinforce the United Nations military and civilian presence in the west. Mr. Annabi discussed these issues at a debriefing meeting with the heads of all components of UNOCI and stressed the need to take immediate action to ensure full compliance with the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy. The leadership of the mission has initiated an investigation into the allegations of misconduct.

31. The only issue on which the Ivorian parties initially expressed divergent views was the role the United Nations should play in the electoral process and, in particular, the certification and arbitration roles of the High Representative for the elections. While Prime Minister Soro and the opposition parties expressed the view that, since the issue had not been addressed by the Ouagadougou agreement, the role of the United Nations in the electoral process remained unchanged, the President initially objected to the certification and arbitration roles of the High Representative for the elections. In a letter addressed to Mr. Annabi dated 18 April, the President contended that the role of the United Nations in the electoral process should be limited to observation and technical advice. The President also cited a letter dated 27 March 2006 addressed to me by the facilitator, in which he had expressed the same view. The opposition parties, however, expressed very strong views in support of the certification role of the High Representative, pointing out that that role was provided for in the Pretoria agreement and was based on a delicately negotiated compromise after the parties had failed to agree on the demand of the opposition parties that the elections should be organized and conducted by the United Nations.

32. When he met with the facilitator on 14 April, Mr. Annabi brought to his attention the differences among the Ivorian parties on this important issue and requested him to help them to reach a common view. During a second round of consultations with President Gbagbo, the assessment mission provided a detailed explanation of the importance of maintaining an international certification mechanism to guarantee the transparency and credibility of the electoral process and to ensure that all parties accept the results. The mission stressed that such international certification would not replace but rather would be in addition to the role to be played in this regard by the Constitutional Council of Côte d'Ivoire. It also emphasized that it was important for the parties to reach a common view on this important issue in order to enable the Security Council to decide on any necessary adjustments to the role of the United Nations.

33. Ultimately, President Gbagbo informed the assessment mission that he had consulted the Prime Minister and that a consensus had been reached on this issue. In this regard, he confirmed that, based on the explanations provided by the mission, he accepted that the United Nations should retain responsibility for international certification of the electoral process. However, he maintained his objection to the

arbitration role and other functions of the High Representative for the elections as defined in Security Council resolution 1721 (2006), insisting that they were too intrusive. With regard to arbitration, it should be noted that President Compaoré, in his capacity as the facilitator, is expected to act as arbitrator on all aspects of the Ouagadougou agreement.

34. The assessment team's consultations with the facilitator and his team in Ouagadougou helped to clarify the request that additional African troops be included in UNOCI and the issue of United Nations participation in the new follow-up mechanisms. With regard to the latter, President Compaoré was amenable to the inclusion of the United Nations, the African Union and ECOWAS in the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee and he undertook to consult the Ivorian parties on this issue. Meanwhile, during the fourteenth meeting of the International Working Group, which took place on 13 April, members of the Group were divided over its future. Some maintained that the Group should be dissolved to avoid a proliferation of competing monitoring mechanisms, others proposed streamlining the Group to make it smaller and less formal, while several other members insisted that the Group still had a useful monitoring role because the peace process was still fragile and vulnerable to possible reversals. The co-chairs of the Working Group (UNOCI and Ghana, in its capacity as Chairman of the African Union) were therefore requested to consult ECOWAS and the African Union and submit recommendations for consideration by the Security Council.

35. Concerning the deployment of additional African troops in UNOCI, Prime Minister Soro and the Burkinabé facilitation team explained that the purpose of the request was to reassure key political leaders who were concerned about their personal security. They advised, however, that in the light of the positive political and security climate emerging in Côte d'Ivoire, there was no longer a need to deploy those troops at the present stage.

36. UNOCI continues to depend on the Licorne force for quick reaction support. The Licorne presence also complements the role of UNOCI in providing security for key processes. During the consultations with the Licorne Force Commander, the assessment mission received assurances that the planned adjustments to the force would be tailored to support the redeployment of UNOCI troops from the zone of confidence and that the quick reaction force capabilities provided by Licorne to UNOCI, under the memorandum signed on 29 December 2005, are likely to remain unchanged.

37. On the whole, the assessment mission returned with the feeling that the signing of the agreement and the determination shown by the parties to respect the implementation schedule had created a more relaxed political atmosphere in the country. An encouraging trend in this regard is the significant decrease in the dissemination of messages from the hate media and in other messages inciting violence, which had become the hallmark of Côte d'Ivoire's political discourse. The agreement has also engendered a new spirit of consensus, which was highlighted by the information by the opposition parties that they were consulted by the facilitator and the signatories before, during and after the Ouagadougou talks and that they fully supported the agreement.

38. However, beyond the optimism and high expectations generated by the significant improvement in the political climate, there was a widespread acknowledgement of the enormity of the challenges still facing the country. In

particular, it was noted that the agreement is yet to have a commensurate impact on the humanitarian situation. All international and national stakeholders who met with the assessment mission, including President Gbagbo and Prime Minister Soro, were very concerned about the host of humanitarian and security challenges in the western part of the country, where internally displaced persons remain in camps, militias maintain an ambivalent attitude towards the agreement and land disputes, ethnic tensions and possible cross-border movement of combatants could reignite violence. Most of the internally displaced persons are still hesitant to return to their places of origin, citing the uncertainty of the security situation, concerns that returning may render them ineligible to receive humanitarian assistance without the provision of alternative aid and the lack of clarity regarding the recovery of their property. The absence of basic public services for the population in the north is causing equal concern.

39. Nonetheless, the agreement is expected to create an environment in which international organizations can continue to provide humanitarian aid while recovery and developmental partners help to build the capacity of national partners and institutions. At present the United Nations and other international organizations are assisting some 4 million persons affected by the conflict at some 23 locations nationwide. These organizations plan to provide support for the various aspects of the Ouagadougou agreement that have implications for the overall humanitarian situation, such as the national programme to assist persons affected by the conflict, the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the dismantling of the militias, the provision of assistance to and protection of vulnerable groups during cantonment and reintegration, the removal of the zone of confidence and the re-establishment of State administration. The humanitarian community will also accompany and observe the identification process, including the development of modalities to ensure that the process takes into account the special situation facing internally displaced persons seeking access to the identification and voter registration processes. They will also provide assistance to Ivorian returnees and refugees who may decide not to be repatriated.

40. Representatives of the World Bank, IMF and the African Development Bank explained to the assessment mission the heavy toll the crisis has taken on the economy of Côte d'Ivoire. Most macroeconomic and social indicators have declined. Since the onset, economic growth has averaged 0 per cent. The industrial sector has suffered the most, owing to the lack of investment. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has seen its role as a regional trading hub diminish. Fiscal performance and transparency have also declined. Tax revenues have fallen below the convergence criteria set by the West African Economic and Monetary Union of 17 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and the composition of spending has shifted towards more sovereignty outlays at the expense of social and investment needs. Overall, fiscal deficits have risen, financed increasingly through higher domestic and external arrears and debt. Governance and bank prudential indicators have deteriorated. On the social front, the low farm-gate prices offered to coffee and cocoa producers during the period from 2004 to 2006, the depressed private sector climate, very high unemployment, especially among the young, and the delay in economic recovery have particularly affected the most vulnerable groups. Poverty has grown from an estimated 38 per cent before the crisis to about 44 per cent, while access to health care and education has decreased. Delays in the restoration of Government services in the northern part of the country have also contributed to the

increasing gap in service delivery between war-affected regions and the rest of the country. The crisis has resulted in a significant deterioration in Côte d'Ivoire's human development index. The country now ranks 164 out of 177 countries and per capita GDP dropped from $1,242 in 1980 to $839 in 2005.

VII. Recommendations

41. Based on the common view and requests conveyed to the technical assessment mission by the Ivorian authorities, and taking into account the advice provided by the main national and international stakeholders and the assessment mission's overall findings, it is recommended that the United Nations should adjust its role in Côte d'Ivoire to effectively support the new phase of the peace process as set out below.

A. Support to the integrated command centre

42. The Ouagadougou agreement assigns the lead role in the implementation of all military and security tasks relating to the peace process to the integrated command centre. However, in view of their capacity constraints, the parties have requested the support of the United Nations for the implementation of those tasks, which include the integration of the Forces nouvelles and the national defence and security forces, the lifting of the zone of confidence, the deployment of mixed police units, implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the provision of security for all key processes, such as the identification of the population, the restoration of State administration throughout the country and the elections. As it performs those military tasks which the Ouagadougou agreement specifically assigns to the impartial forces, such as the maintenance of observation posts along the green line, UNOCI will also work in close coordination with the integrated command centre and the Licorne force.

1. Setting up the integrated command centre

43. At the request of the Chiefs of the Defence and Security Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the Forces nouvelles, UNOCI and the Licorne force have provided assistance to the two forces in defining the structure and functions of the command centre and setting up the headquarters of the integrated command centre in Yamoussoukro. The command centre will comprise seven functional sections as follows: human resources; operations, short-term planning and intelligence; logistics, including finance, transport and operations; long-term planning, including for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; security sector reform; communications and information systems; and civil-military cooperation. The centre will also have a secretariat, including a public information adviser.

44. A service support company comprising about 120 soldiers and 10 gendarmes, with each party providing a half of these personnel, will provide administrative and logistics support for the integrated command centre. In addition, the centre will include a gendarmerie liaison detachment, whose size is yet to be determined, with personnel drawn from both parties. The military chiefs have also agreed on the methodology to be followed in appointing the members of the command centre, ensuring an equitable division of key posts between the two parties. The commander

of the centre will report directly to the two Chiefs of Staff. The total strength of the command centre is subject to further discussion by the parties, but it is estimated that the two forces will collectively provide some 230 personnel, most being military.

45. The two Chiefs of Staff have requested UNOCI and the Licorne force to assign two military liaison officers each, and have also requested one United Nations police liaison officer, for the integrated command centre. The parties have further requested the impartial forces to deploy a platoon each to provide security to the integrated command centre headquarters in Yamoussoukro. It is recommended that the Security Council approve the liaison and security support tasks requested of UNOCI by the parties as described above. In addition to those tasks, it is recommended that UNOCI continue to provide technical advice to the integrated command centre, extend to it the necessary logistical support within its capabilities and assist in developing its operational capacity.

2. Lifting the zone of confidence and establishing the green line

46. As indicated, in paragraph 4 above, the process of lifting the zone of confidence and replacing it by a green line started as scheduled, on 16 April. UNOCI will establish 17 observation posts at designated axes of infiltration along the green line. Half of these observation posts are to be deactivated every two months, until all are removed. As of 16 April, UNOCI had started setting up the observation posts at the designated 17 sites. However the removal of the zone of confidence and the dismantling of UNOCI checkpoints in the zone will be conducted progressively as the integrated command centre establishes and deploys mixed police units that will be responsible for maintaining law and order in the area. A total of six such mixed units will be deployed in the area formerly covered by the zone of confidence. The two parties have requested UNOCI to assign four United Nations police officers to each mixed unit to provide with advice and support in the performance of their law enforcement responsibilities.

47. Each mixed unit will comprise 25 personnel (10 each from the two parties, 4 from UNOCI and one medical assistant) and will be assigned to a particular civilian administration jurisdiction. Two units will operate in each of the three zones sub-dividing the green line, which will be called the west, centre and east zones. In addition, one joint military support unit will provide immediate security support for the two mixed units operating in each zone. The three joint military support units will each comprise about 70 military personnel (one platoon from each party). Leadership of the three joint military support units has been divided between the two parties, with an officer from the Forces nouvelles commanding the west zone unit and officers from the defence and security forces commanding the remaining two units in the centre and east zones.

48. It is recommended that the Security Council approve the assignment of United Nations police officers to support the mixed police units and the integrated command centre, as requested by the parties. Furthermore, the police personnel that would come from the Forces nouvelles would require training and mentoring. With the consent of the two parties, UNOCI would support the national police and gendarmerie in providing training for these police personnel. In addition, the UNOCI battalions operating adjacent to the green line will each provide a company

sized quick reaction force to support their subordinate units and green line observation posts.

3. Security sector reform and deployment of the new defence and security forces throughout the country

49. As the removal of the green line and the reunification of the country progresses, the mixed police and gendarmerie units deployed in the area formerly covered by the zone of confidence would eventually be replaced by the security arrangements envisaged in the framework of the country-wide deployment of the new restructured defence and security forces. If requested by the parties, UNOCI could provide advice on the reform and restructuring of the new army and police, in particular on the development of the country's new defence and security policy and architecture. However, it would be advisable for the Government to seek assistance from bilateral partners who have the capacity to provide support for the training and restructuring of the new armed forces. The United Nations could assist the Government in identifying such bilateral partners.

50. United Nations police could also provide training to the police personnel from the Forces nouvelles and advice on the integration of such personnel into the national police force. It is recommended that, in addition to assisting in the training of the police and providing advice on the reform of the security sector, United Nations police also accompany, advise and provide logistical assistance for the deployment of national police throughout the country, within its capabilities.

4. Reinforcement of UNOCI deployment in the west

51. The capacity of the integrated command centre and the envisaged integrated police and armed forces to tackle the security challenges in the volatile western part of the country will take some time to develop. The Ivorian authorities have therefore requested UNOCI to reinforce its military and police deployments in that area, including the regions along the border with Liberia. It is therefore recommended that, as it redeploys from the zone of confidence, UNOCI should conduct a careful troop-to-task analysis with a view to determining the level to which it could reinforce its presence in the west and in the areas along the border with Liberia. However, as requested by the parties, the role of UNOCI in this sensitive area should not substitute for the national institutions. In this regard, as the development of the envisaged new armed forces progresses, the integrated command centre should be encouraged to give priority to deploying national defence and security personnel to this area. In the meantime, the anticipated reinforcement of the UNOCI military and police presence in the west should be complemented by increased assistance from UNOCI and United Nations country team to the Government and Ivorian civil society in developing initiatives for the promotion of social cohesion and national reconciliation, as well as the restoration of basic social services in that area. Radio ONUCI-FM coverage would also be strengthened correspondingly in the west. In addition, UNOCI will continue to conduct coordinated patrols with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in the border areas.

5. Implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme

52. Prime Minister Soro confirmed that, in keeping with the Ouagadougou agreement, the integrated command centre will assume the lead role in the implementation of the disarmament and demobilization phases. The National Programme for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration is expected to continue to play a key role in the implementation of the programmes for the reintegration of ex-combatants and rehabilitation of communities. Both the Prime Minister and representatives of the National Programme informed the technical assessment mission that they expected UNOCI, the United Nations country team, the World Bank and the European Union to assist the national institutions in the planning and implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. They also indicated that the reintegration aspect would be modified to take into account the civic service programme. The Chiefs of Staff of the two forces indicated that they expect to establish a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration planning and implementation cell, to be co-chaired by the two forces, in which they expect UNOCI to participate.

53. A new concept of operations for the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme was developed at a coordination meeting convened by the Prime Minister's office on 25 April, which was attended by representatives of the National Programme for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, UNOCI, the Licorne force, the World Bank, the European Commission and UNDP. Under the revised concept, the defence and security forces will be cantoned in eight sites in the southern part of the country and the Forces nouvelles in nine sites in the north, beginning on a date to be determined by the integrated command centre. The parties have agreed that, while the defence and security forces will be cantoned and their weapons placed in storage, there are no longer any armed forces personnel that will be eligible for disarmament and demobilization because all the 3,000 irregular armed forces personnel recruited after the events of September 2002 have been integrated into the armed forces through a presidential decree. Within the framework of the integrated command centre, the Chiefs of Staff of both forces will propose, for approval by the President and the Prime Minister, the number of Forces nouvelles personnel to be integrated into the unified army. Only those Forces nouvelles personnel who will not be integrated into the new army will be disarmed and enrolled into the civic service programme and other reintegration projects.

54. The National Programme for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and UNOCI confirmed that 25 disarmament, demobilization and reintegration sites have been refurbished and are ready for the cantonment of combatants. However, the Forces nouvelles have asked for an additional four sites and the defence and security forces for another two sites in order to reduce the distance the combatants would have to travel to the nearest site. The Government and the National Programme for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration have asked UNOCI to assist in constructing these additional sites. In addition, the impartial forces will be expected to provide security for the disarmament sites, supervise the overall disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, in keeping with the Ouagadougou agreement, and assist the integrated command centre in destroying the unserviceable weapons and ammunition surrendered, while ensuring storage of those that are serviceable.

55. The disarmament and dismantling of the estimated 1,100 remaining armed militias will be conducted on the basis of the same process that was applied in August 2006: the armed groups will be identified and then disarmed. Profiles of the ex-militia personnel will be prepared in order to facilitate their inclusion into rehabilitation activities. Unarmed militias will be dismantled and will have the benefit of reinsertion programmes, but will not be entitled to the safety net package provided to armed elements.

56. In the light of the above requests, it is recommended that UNOCI support the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme by, inter alia, constructing the additional disarmament, demobilization and reintegration sites, continuing to provide strategic planning and logistical assistance to the integrated command centre and the National Programme for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, helping the integrated command centre to provide security at the cantonment sites, assisting in the destruction of collected weapons, coordinating the assistance provided by international partners and overseeing the cantonment, disarmament and demobilization processes and the storage of weapons collected from the cantoned military units. As indicated in my report of 4 December 2006, the cost of constructing the additional six disarmament, demobilization and reintegration sites is estimated at $10 million (S/2006/939, para. 28). If requested by the integrated command centre, UNOCI could also assist in establishing a database on the combatants and the weapons collected.

57. The United Nations agencies, together with the World Bank and the European Commission, will assist the Ivorian authorities to formulate and implement equitable reintegration programmes that take into account similar programmes for internally displaced persons, former militia members and those joining the youth reinsertion and civic service programmes. They will also assist the Government in mobilizing the resources needed for the reintegration and civic service programmes. Furthermore, UNOCI and the agencies will work with humanitarian organizations to assist the Ivorian authorities in developing appropriate rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for the estimated 4,000 children associated with the former fighting forces, as well as other vulnerable groups affected by the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, such as women combatants and women associated with the fighting forces. UNDP will continue to assist with the procurement of equipment for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration sites and will work with UNOCI to help the Government in the preparation of information campaign strategies in support of the collection of small arms and light weapons.

58. In order to ensure effective and integrated support for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, it is also recommended that the United Nations system in Côte d'Ivoire set up an integrated implementation support cell, which would be co-located with the integrated command centre's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration cell in Yamoussoukro. The United Nations integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration implementation support cell would include all relevant UNOCI military, police and civilian components, including logistics and public information, and all concerned United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. It is further recommended that UNOCI establish an additional disarmament, demobilization and reintegration field office in the west, which is currently covered by only one officer based in Daloa. In addition, UNOCI

intends to deploy a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration logistics officer at each of the 17 cantonment sites.

B. Support for the restoration of State administration throughout the country

59. The Executive-Secretary of the Comité national de pilotage du redéploiement de l'administration informed the technical assessment mission that, based on the Ouagadougou agreement, the Government has decided to put in place new institutional arrangements to implement the restoration of State administration throughout the country. Under these arrangements, the Prime Minister will oversee the work of the Comité national, with the support of the Minister of Public Service and the Minister of Home Affairs and Local Administration. According to the Comité, to date, out of the 24,437 civil servants who were displaced during the crisis, a total of 12,343 have already returned to their posts, including 3,962 to the west and 8,381 to the north. The Government is currently focusing on appointing préfets and sous-préfets, who are expected to be deployed to the north and west. The Prime Minister indicated that the two parties have already agreed on 90 per cent of the candidates for the posts of préfets. The 600 police auxiliaries from the Forces nouvelles, who were trained by UNOCI, are expected to provide security for the return of the préfets and civil servants.

60. The Comité national de pilotage du redéploiement de l'administration has requested specific assistance from the United Nations to support the redeployment of the remaining 12,094 civil servants, which is scheduled to take place between 23 April and 22 July 2007. The requested support includes sensitization campaigns through Radio ONUCI-FM and funding workshops to train préfets and sous-préfets in post-crisis management. The Comité also indicated that, until the Ivorian financial institutions re-establish their branches throughout the country, the Government will need logistical and security support from UNOCI to transport funds for the payment of salaries to civil servants in the field. The Comité also requested the United Nations to assist in mobilizing funding for the rehabilitation of public administration infrastructure in the north, the cost of which is estimated at $22 million.

61. It is recommended that UNOCI support the sensitization programme for the redeployment of State administration to the north, as requested by the Ivorian authorities. UNOCI would also assist in the training of préfets in post-conflict crisis management. The relevant United Nations funds, agencies and programmes should support the rehabilitation of public administration infrastructure in the north and west. In addition, the United Nations will work with other partners to support the provision of basic services during the return of local state administrators and law enforcement authorities. The United Nations will also support the restoration of rule of law institutions in the north and west, in particular the judicial system and police, as part of overall restoration of state authority and administration throughout the country.

62. As indicated earlier, the United Nations police would provide mentoring and training assistance to Ivorian police and gendarmerie personnel deployed to the north to support the delivery of professional and democratic law enforcement and police services and gain the trust and confidence of the population. Initial efforts

would focus on the 600 security auxiliaries, to be deployed at 54 locations within the former zone of confidence and throughout the northern part of the country. In the southern part of the country, United Nations police will continue to accompany, support and advise Ivorian law enforcement personnel, including by helping the authorities to conduct a comprehensive needs analysis, formulate strategies and develop and implement programmes.

C. Supporting the identification and voter registration processes

63. The Ouagadougou agreement sets out detailed procedures for the general identification of the population in Côte d'Ivoire, which are linked to the registration of those eligible to vote. These procedures include the deployment of some 208 special mobile courts throughout the country to issue judgements, in lieu of birth certificates, to persons who do not have them. The judgements will record the birth place and the nationality of the individual's parents, which would determine the citizenship of the individual. The parties also made a commitment to reconstitute destroyed or lost civil registers.

64. In addition, in order to facilitate the holding of the presidential election, the agreement seeks to accelerate the process by which Ivorian citizens of voting age can obtain the documents they need in order to register to vote. To that end, the parties agreed that Ivorians of voting age can register to vote based on birth registration documents (birth certificates or court judgements in lieu of birth certificates, to be issued by the mobile courts). Upon registration, eligible voters will receive a receipt with a unique number, which would enable them to obtain both a voters card and a national identity card.

65. The final electoral roll will be prepared on the basis of the electoral lists established in 2000. Thus, individuals who are already on the 2000 voters list will be automatically enrolled on the new voters' list upon presentation of a valid identity card. Eligible Ivorians who are not on the 2000 voters list will be registered if they present the requisite birth registration documents.

66. In order to help enhance the transparency and credibility of the crucial identification process, it is recommended that UNOCI and relevant United Nations agencies accompany and support the National Commission for the Supervision of Identification and participate in observing the operations of the hearings of the mobile courts. With the consent of the Ivorian authorities, United Nations agencies should also assist the national implementing institutions to formulate practical arrangements that would ensure access to the identification process by internally displaced persons and by refugees who choose to remain as permanent residents. They would also support the reconstitution and establishment of updated civil registries and help develop systems to update data for future census exercises. In addition, in keeping with its mandate to prevent and reduce statelessness, UNHCR would provide support and advice to the Ivorian authorities in implementing the identification process. The dissemination of information on the process, including the criteria and procedures, will be of crucial importance to the integrity of the process. UNOCI and United Nations agencies will assist the Ivorian authorities in developing and implementing a nationwide sensitization campaign for the identification process. It is also recommended that UNOCI assist the integrated command centre in providing security for the mobile courts operations.

D. Support to the electoral process

67. The Independent Electoral Commission has completed setting up its central and regional structures and will soon deploy its local commissions throughout the country. The Chairman of the Commission stressed that the security of the electoral process before, during and after the elections was crucial. He therefore requested UNOCI to provide security for the 13,400 central and local commissioners of the Independent Electoral Commission, the 90,000 polling personnel, 430 local offices of the Commission, the 11,000 polling stations and the electoral observers. In addition, he requested the United Nations to assist in mobilizing funding for the elections and proposed that UNDP should manage the funds contributed by the international community. Furthermore, he expressed concern about the role of the media in the electoral process and requested the United Nations to support the Commission's public information programme. The Chairman also requested the United Nations to provide the necessary logistical support for the electoral process.

68. In its resolution 1528 (2004), the Security Council mandated UNOCI to contribute, within its capabilities and areas of deployment, to the security of the areas where voting is to take place and to provide technical assistance to the electoral process. It is recommended that UNOCI should maintain this role in support of the integrated command centre with regard to security.

69. It is also recommended that UNOCI maintain its current electoral mandate as defined in Security Council resolution 1739 (2007). In addition, the mandate should be adjusted to include coordination of international observers. The coordination of long- and short-term observation of the electoral process would require UNOCI to establish a small unit in its electoral component, which would be dedicated to that task.

70. It is further recommended that UNOCI technical support include assistance to the Independent Electoral Commission in reviewing its operational plans, budgets and calendar, conducting cartographic and logistical surveys of sites selected for the mobile courts and polling centres and planning how the public information, logistics and security components of the mission can assist in a broad civic education campaign. In this regard, UNOCI should enhance coordination between the military, police, logistics, gender, civil affairs, political and public information components of the mission, as well as with United Nations agencies that have a role in providing support for the identification and electoral processes.

71. Considering the constraints still facing the integrated command centre and the limited UNOCI troop levels, UNOCI would help to develop security plans that identify high risk areas where security arrangements would be put in place to protect the 208 mobile courts, the 24 regional, 48 departmental and 358 local electoral commissions and the envisaged 11,000 polling stations, in order to ensure the establishment of a secure environment for the election and its preparatory phases. United Nations police would assist Ivorian law enforcement agencies by providing technical advice and training on operational planning and elections security. If requested by the Ivorian authorities, UNOCI formed police units could provide training to the national police in crowd management and conduct joint exercises with Ivorian police and gendarmerie units on providing security for the elections.

72. United Nations agencies and programmes intend to support the electoral process by helping to mobilize resources to finance additional technical assistance

to the Independent Electoral Commission, the procurement of electoral material and data processing equipment, and the updating of voters lists and communication. UNDP is well positioned to mobilize additional resources for the elections and has taken steps to formulate a technical assistance project in close collaboration with UNOCI to support the Commission.

E. Role of the High Representative for the elections

73. All the Ivorian parties recognize the importance of and accept the need to maintain the United Nations responsibility for international certification of the electoral process, based on the Pretoria agreement, in order to ensure the transparency and credibility of the elections and to minimize the risk of a political crisis in the event that the electoral process is challenged by some parties. It was acknowledged that the United Nations certification role should not replace but should rather be in addition to the prerogatives of national institutions to certify the various aspects of the electoral process.

74. In the light of the above, and taking into account the wish of the parties to exercise greater ownership of the peace process and the difficulties which have arisen regarding the role of the High Representative for the elections, it is recommended that the Security Council consider entrusting the certification role to my Special Representative. In order to ensure that my Special Representative receives independent advice and support in performing this certification role, a small unit, separate from UNOCI's electoral component and consisting of up to three staff, would be set up in his office. In addition to his certification role, my Special Representative would also perform the original mandate of the High Representative as spelled out in Security Council resolution 1603 (2005).

F. Support to persons affected by the conflict

75. United Nations agencies and programmes will assist the Government in formulating a national strategy for providing assistance to vulnerable persons affected by the conflict, including a plan of action outlining areas of support by the United Nations and other international partners. They will also provide support for the dissemination of information on international humanitarian law and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to the public and to the civilian and military authorities. Other areas in which the development and humanitarian agencies will provide support include the formulation of a national legal framework for the protection and return of internally displaced persons, building the Government capacity to undertake humanitarian advocacy and contributing to the formulation of a comprehensive strategy that will outline immediate and longer-term investments in key service areas such as water, health and education. The overarching goal is to ensure that an agreement is reached with the Ivorian authorities and donors to provide a comprehensive response that concurrently addresses the needs of internally displaced persons, host families and receiving communities. It is equally important to support the authorities and displaced communities in identifying and implementing the most appropriate durable solutions for internally displaced persons.

76. Humanitarian activities will also continue to give priority to mitigating epidemic outbreaks and facilitating access of the population to potable water in order to prevent diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, measles and guinea worm. The humanitarian community will also advocate the restoration of the social fabric and the rule of law, including the rapid return of the judiciary. In addition, they will assist the Ivorian authorities to create access for the youth, who constitute 42 to 48 per cent of the total Ivorian population, to education and employment opportunities.

77. UNOCI's HIV/AIDS Unit, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), will assist in the training of peer educators, assure HIV/AIDS sensitization and provide voluntary counselling and testing services. UNOCI would also deploy voluntary counselling and testing mobile clinics to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration sites.

78. While the agreement does not explicitly address the issue of access to land and housing rights, this issue will come to the fore in the context of the return of internally displaced persons foreseen in the agreement. The international community, including the United Nations country team and its partners, would be prepared to support the Government to put in place appropriate mechanisms to deal with the recovery of land and property by returnees. Where such recovery is not deemed feasible, the Government would be encouraged to put in place appropriate compensation or another form of reparation mechanisms.

G. Supporting efforts to create a positive political environment

79. In the Ouagadougou agreement, the Ivorian parties expressed their commitment to organize a wide campaign of information and sensitization of the population to support the peace and reconciliation process and to refrain from any type of propaganda that might jeopardize national cohesion and unity. In order to address the lack of information among the population about the peace process, it is recommended that UNOCI and relevant United Nations agencies work with the Ivorian authorities and other partners to assist in the development and implementation of an effective public information plan that would make full use of the available national and UNOCI communications capacities, including Radio ONUCI-FM, Radio télévision ivorienne and the network of community radio stations. The Ivorian authorities will continue to have access to Radio ONUCI-FM to disseminate information on the agreement and the peace process in general. It is essential for the Government and UNOCI to discuss and agree on how Radio ONUCI-FM and Radio télévision ivorienne can play complementary roles in supporting the peace process, promoting national reconciliation and helping to cultivate a positive political environment throughout the country. Additional resources will be required for the expansion of Radio ONUCI-FM coverage where it is most needed.

H. Supporting efforts to promote and protect human rights

80. The Ouagadougou agreement does not expressly address the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire. Nonetheless several public national and international stakeholders, in particular civil society organizations consulted by the technical assessment mission, stressed that serious human rights violations are one of the root

causes of the Ivorian crisis. They requested the United Nations and other international partners to continue to monitor and promote human rights in the country and to assist the Government to fight impunity in order to ensure a lasting solution to the crisis.

81. It is therefore recommended that UNOCI continue to support the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as monitor, investigate and report on human rights abuses committed in the country. In addition, the mission should also assist the Government in the formulation and implementation of a national human rights action plan, in preparation and submission of outstanding country reports to United Nations human rights treaty bodies and in the effective functioning of the newly established National Human Rights Commission.

82. With regard to the protection of children, UNOCI and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will continue to advise the Ivorian authorities on addressing issues pertaining to the juvenile justice system, the rehabilitation of children associated with fighting forces, street children and child prostitution, as well as to monitor and report on violations perpetrated against children in application of Security Council resolution 1612 (2005).

I. Supporting the economic recovery process

83. The operations of IMF and the World Bank are being scaled up in Côte d'Ivoire. Since early 2007, the two institutions have designated country representatives, marking the beginning of a re-engagement with the country. Nevertheless, further development of relations will be tied to fundamental structural reform, such as transparency in the management of cocoa, coffee and oil revenues, the development of a detailed plan of action for clearance of arrears and concrete progress in the peace process. The World Bank is preparing a pre-arrears grant of some $120 million in order to support reintegration of ex-combatants, the identification process and community rehabilitation. In the meantime, UNOCI and other United Nations agencies have begun preliminary work with the World Bank on the appropriateness and the timing of a post-conflict needs assessment, which would feed into steps for recovery and reconstruction.

VIII. Adjustments to the United Nations presence

A. Military component

84. As at 20 April 2007, the military strength of UNOCI stood at 8,050 personnel, comprising 7,758 troops, 193 military observers and 99 staff officers, against an authorized ceiling of 8,115. These troops make up 11 battalions, nine of which are deployed in the two sectors (East and West), and two in Abidjan. One aviation unit, three engineering companies, one transport company and one special force company are providing enabling capacity and an operational reserve to the force. A total of 14 light infantry companies and three mechanized companies are deployed in Sector West, the most challenging area; 10 light infantry companies, one armoured company and the aviation unit, are deployed in Sector East. The military component also includes the Sous-Groupement de sécurité, comprising 279 personnel, who provide security to the signatories to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement, members of

the Government, members of the Electoral Commission and the High Representative for the elections.

85. Based on the views expressed by the Ivorian authorities, it is recommended that UNOCI should not begin its drawdown at this stage. As the zone of confidence is progressively lifted, the troops deployed in the area will be redeployed to support the integrated command centre in performing the key tasks set out in the Ouagadougou agreement, as described in section VII above. In this regard, the priority is to deploy troops, as requested by the parties to the agreement, to each of the 17 cantonment sites, with up to a maximum of one company, as appropriate (some cantonment sites contain more than one disarmament site), to supervise and support the disarmament and demobilization process and the storage of weapons. In addition, the request of the parties that six additional disarmament, demobilization and reintegration sites be established may require UNOCI to establish temporary military bases in Kani and Ouangolodougou in the north-west. The remaining troops will be assigned to help the integrated command centre to secure other key processes, such as the identification process, the redeployment of State officials throughout the country and the electoral process, and to provide security for the command centre headquarters in Yamoussoukro and reinforce current UNOCI deployments in the west. The troops remaining in the area formerly covered by the zone of confidence will include a platoon (35 personnel) at each of the 17 observation posts along the green line and six companies (600 personnel) that will be deployed in the vicinity of the green line to serve as a quick reaction force.

86. The plans for the redeployment to the west and throughout the country in support of the key tasks are being developed in consultation with the integrated command centre and the Licorne force, based on a troop-to-task analysis. UNOCI is also reviewing the security protection priorities for the Sous-Groupement de sécurité, in consultation with the parties, to reduce their current range of tasks in order to provide more effectively protection support to those members of the current Government who request it and to respond to other mission related priorities.

87. It is recommended that, once the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the restoration of State administration throughout the country are completed, possibly within the coming three months, UNOCI would conduct a review of its troop level and determine the military resources required to support the completion of the remaining tasks. However, any troop reductions based on that review should take into account the need to retain sufficient troop levels to effectively secure the electoral process. The completion of the presidential election and the installation of the elected Government will be the next key benchmarks that should trigger the beginning of the withdrawal of UNOCI. In the meantime, I recommend the extension of the mission's mandate for a further period of six months, until December 2007. My next report, which will be submitted in September 2007, will take stock of the progress made towards completing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and restoration of State administration throughout the country and will provide recommendations concerning the mission's troop and police levels.

B. Police component

88. The current strength of the police component of UNOCI stands at 1,157, including 408 individual police officers and 749 members of six formed police units, against an authorized strength of 1,200 police personnel. United Nations police personnel are deployed at 19 locations throughout the country. Two formed police units are deployed in Abidjan and four in Bouaké, Daloa, Guiglo and Yamoussoukro. The primary task of the formed police units is to provide security for United Nations personnel, equipment and facilities. Formed police units conduct regular joint exercises in crowd control management with United Nations and Licorne military forces.

89. In order to provide support to the implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement, in particular to assist in the training of the national police in the north, the UNOCI police component will deploy to two new locations in the north. In addition, one formed police unit will be redeployed from Abidjan to Boundiali, in the north-west, to provide security for the increased number of United Nations police as well as other UNOCI personnel and equipment to be deployed to the north. Up to 72 United Nations police officers will be deployed to the area formerly covered by the zone of confidence to advise and support the mixed police units in performing their law and order maintenance functions. Although the integrated command centre has requested only one United Nations police liaison officer, UNOCI plans to assign five officers to the centre, given the tasks involved, which go beyond liaison and include providing advice on policing issues. The United Nations police officers deployed to the northern part of the country will provide further training and mentoring to the 600 police auxiliaries deployed at 54 locations and will also provide training for newly recruited police cadets from the Forces nouvelles, as requested by the parties.

C. Civilian component

90. With respect to the civilian component, the mission will deploy more personnel in the north and west to support the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and the restoration of State administration in those areas. In addition, an integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration implementation support cell will be co-located with the integrated command centre's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration planning cell in Yamoussoukro.

91. In order to ensure that the organizations of the United Nations system in Côte d'Ivoire support the peace process in a more efficient manner, UNOCI will coordinate its relevant civilian functions with those of the United Nations country team, with a view to ensuring integrated planning. Significant progress has already been achieved in the alignment of activities between UNOCI's human rights section and the country team. Key areas that require urgent synchronization include identification, gender, HIV/AIDS and public information.

92. The Ouagadougou agreement creates an environment in which partnerships between relief and development organizations can be strengthened to ensure coherence and the maximization of resources. Priority areas in which such partnerships could be forged include the rehabilitation of homes, roads, bridges and

public infrastructure and the provision of technical support to local state administrators and civil society. UNDP and other United Nations agencies are also harmonizing their approaches to humanitarian assistance and post-crisis early recovery as a basis for operational partnerships to support the electoral process, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and community rehabilitation.

IX. Mission support issues

93. Ongoing and planned integrated mission support activities will be assessed and adjusted as required to ensure a (United Nations system-wide) coordinated and optimal tasking and response to additional and changed operational priorities. Major support challenges include the dismantling of checkpoints in the former zone of confidence, the establishment of observation points along the green line and the establishment of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration camps and related operational support activities. Additionally, the planned reinforcement of deployments to the western part of the country, the provision of logistics support to the electoral process and the continued expansion of the mission's radio coverage in support of sensitization campaigns remain key support priorities.

94. Detailed resource implications and implementation plans will be determined on the basis of still-developing concepts of operations and implementation timelines for the respective programmes. It is important, however, to note that, based on current tentative timelines, the United Nations system may be expected to respond to major concurrent and resource-intensive support activities that may require short- to medium-term operational surge capacity.

X. Financial aspects

95. By its resolutions 60/17 B and 61/247, the General Assembly appropriated the total amount of $472.9 million for the maintenance of UNOCI for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. The total resources approved for the mission would support 8,115 military personnel, 450 United Nations police personnel and 750 formed police personnel authorized by the Security Council in its resolutions 1609 (2005) and 1682 (2006).

96. Should the Security Council approve my proposals made in paragraph 56 above, the resulting resource requirements would be met through the use of the mission's existing resources and resources that will be appropriated by the General Assembly for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

97. As at 31 December 2006, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNOCI amounted to $90.4 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $1,760 million. Reimbursement of troop- and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the period up to 28 February 2007 and 31 December 2006, respectively.

XI. Observations

98. Prior to the Ouagadougou dialogue, the Ivorian parties had signed a total of five peace agreements since the outbreak of the conflict in 2002. Each of those

agreements significantly contributed towards resolving some important aspects of the crisis. In addition, within the framework of those agreements, the impartial forces helped to prevent the parties from returning to full scale hostilities. The advent of the Ouagadougou agreement, however, takes the Ivorian peace process to a unique turning point. For the first time since the beginning of the crisis, the Ivorian parties have undertaken a dialogue at their own initiative, with a facilitator of their choice. Furthermore, the parties have themselves drawn up the framework for resolving key issues that had hitherto impeded progress in the peace process. The opposition parties, which were not directly involved in the dialogue, have confirmed that they fully support the agreement and that they have mandated Prime Minister Soro to represent them. Prime Minister Soro and the facilitator consulted them throughout the dialogue. Accordingly, the Ivorian parties wish to assume full ownership of the process set out in the Ouagadougou agreement and to see national institutions take the lead in implementing it.

99. I congratulate the Ivorian parties for mustering the necessary political will to assume full responsibility for resolving the crisis in their country and I commend President Compaoré for his effective facilitation role. I also thank President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and President Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo for their mediation role over the past four years.

100. Ownership of the peace process imposes a unique responsibility on the Ivorian parties to implement the Ouagadougou agreement in full and in good faith. They have made a good beginning in this regard, meeting the first crucial deadlines set out in the implementation schedule. However, as in all peace processes, unforeseen events will test their will at every critical turn. I urge them to remain steadfast and keep the peace process on track. In this regard, it is imperative to nurture and sustain the spirit of consensus engendered by the Ouagadougou agreement and to forge national cohesion and promote genuine national reconciliation in order to underpin the emerging positive political environment. Furthermore, addressing the main sources of insecurity among the population, including human rights violations, the activities of militias and incitement to violence, inter alia, by the media, will also be crucial to the preservation of a healthy political climate and confidence among the parties.

101. The political will of the parties alone will not sustain the peace process. Already, the delays in launching the dismantling of militias, the cantonment of the former fighting forces, the redeployment of State authority and the mobile courts hearings, which were all scheduled to begin on 23 April, have underscored the challenges that the capacity limitations of national institutions can present for the implementation of the agreement. The Ivorian authorities will need the assistance of the United Nations and other international partners to develop the capacity of the main national institutions involved in the implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement, especially the newly formed integrated command centre.

102. Needless to say, the ultimate test for the Ouagadougou agreement lies in its ability to resolve the fundamental issues that lie at the heart of the Ivorian crisis, in particular the identification of the population, the disarmament of combatants, the reunification of the country and the re-establishment of State authority throughout the country. Failure to effectively address these issues could lead to a breakdown of

the peace process, with dire consequences, not only for Côte d'Ivoire, but also for the subregion.

103. The Ouagadougou agreement provides an opportunity for both the Ivorian parties and their international partners to turn a new page. For the parties, this agreement could well be the last chance for a peaceful solution to the crisis. The setbacks and prolonged stalemates of the past should therefore be avoided. With the prevailing ideal situation, where the parties now own and lead the peace process, the international community should adjust its role and relationship with the Ivorian parties accordingly. In particular, it is important to respect and sustain the spirit of consensus among the parties, which is the critical factor propelling the peace process forward. At the same time, the considerable amount of resources already invested in Côte d'Ivoire imposes on the international partners on the ground the obligation to help the parties to ensure that all key processes are conducted in a transparent, balanced and credible manner. Accordingly, in accompanying the national institutions as they implement the agreement, the international partners cannot be mere passive observers, they should provide the necessary support and advice, with a view to ensuring that the peace process is conducted in accordance with internationally accepted standards. This requires regular consultations with the parties. I therefore urge the parties and the facilitator to involve the international partners in the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

104. For its part, the United Nations system is ready to provide the support requested by the Ivorian authorities. The capacity of UNOCI and the United Nations country team to support the implementation of previous peace agreements will remain to provide support to the new phase of the peace process, as outlined in section VII above. In providing such support, the United Nations system will also help to reinforce the capacity of national institutions, enhance the credibility and transparency of such crucial processes as the identification of the population, disarmament and the elections and assist in preventing the process from sliding back. The United Nations system will also coordinate and work closely with other international partners. I therefore invite the Security Council to approve the recommendations in section VII above.

105. In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the Officer-in-Charge of UNOCI, Mr. Abou Moussa, the High Representative for the elections, Mr. Gérard Stoudmann, and the military and civilian personnel of UNOCI and members of the United Nations country team for their continued commitment to the peace process. I would also like to express my gratitude to the humanitarian and development organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors and the countries that are contributing military and police personnel to UNOCI for their invaluable contribution to peace in Côte d'Ivoire.

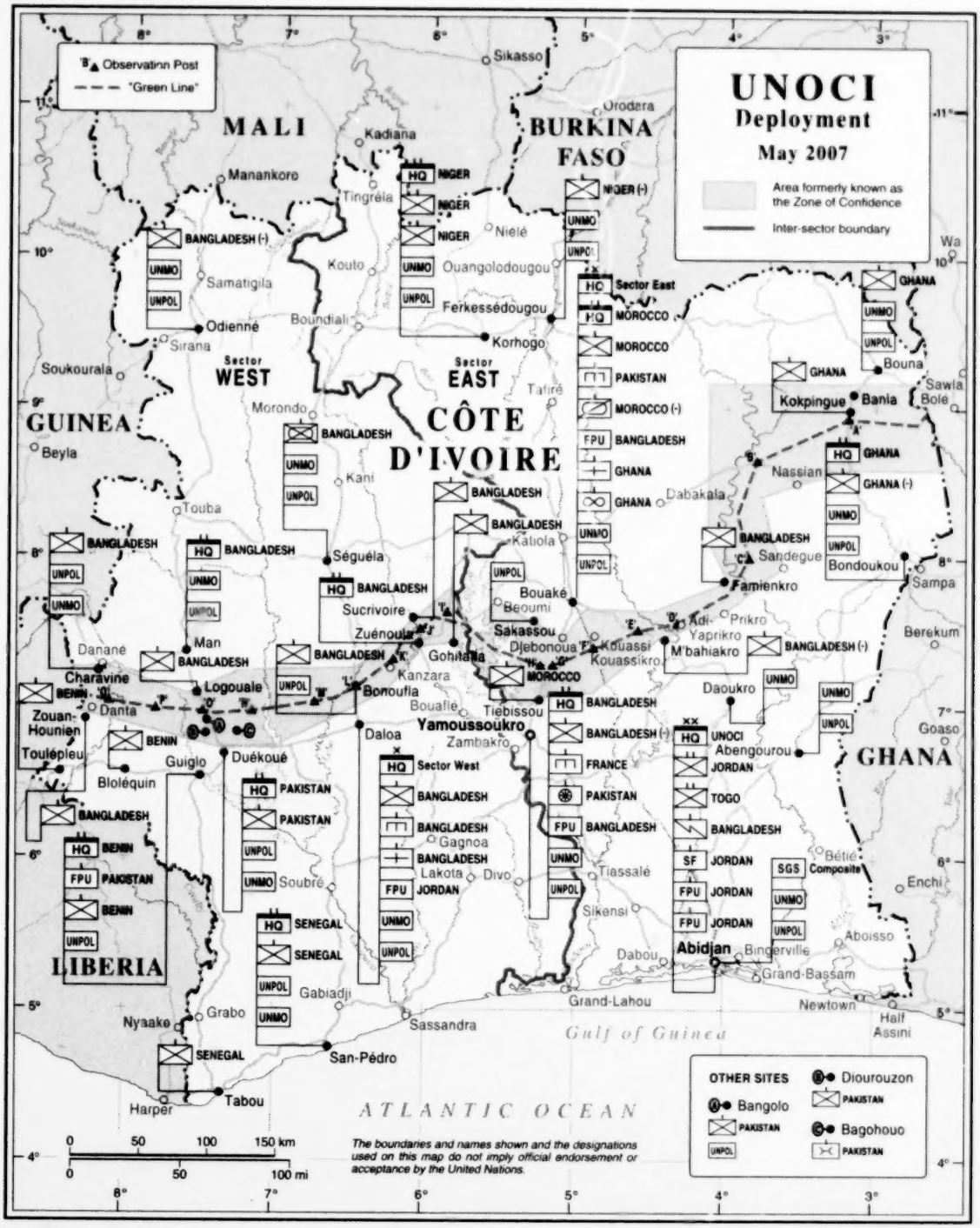
Annex

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Military strength as at 7 May 2007

Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	***Total***	*Formed police units*	*Civilian police*
Argentina						4
Bangladesh	11	10	2 722	**2 743**	250	9
Benin	8	9	420	**437**		28
Bolivia	0			**0**		
Brazil	4	3		**7**		
Burkina Faso				**0**		
Cameroon				**0**		62
Canada				**0**		3
Central African Republic				**0**		7
Chad	3			**3**		5
China	4			**4**		
Congo	0			**0**		
Croatia	3			**3**		
Djibouti				**0**		39
Dominican Republic	4			**4**		
Ecuador	2			**2**		
El Salvador	3			**3**		1
Ethiopia	4			**4**		
France	2	11	173	**186**		10
Guatemala	5			**5**		
Ghana	6	7	531	**544**		1
Gambia	3			**3**		
Guinea	3			**3**		
India	6			**6**		11
Ireland	2			**2**		
Jordan	7	11	1 049	**1 067**	375	4
Kenya	5	3		**8**		
Lebanon				**0**		0
Madagascar				**0**		6
Moldova	3			**3**		
Morocco	1	3	733	**737**		
Namibia	3			**3**		
Nepal	3			**3**		
Niger	6	3	379	**388**		71
Nigeria	8			**8**		17

Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	***Total***	*Formed police units*	*Civilian police*
Pakistan	10	11	1 113	**1 134**	125	2
Paraguay	9	2		**11**		
Peru	0			**0**		
Poland	2			**2**		
Portugal				**0**		
Philippines	5	3		**8**		11
Romania	7			**7**		
Russian Federation	11			**11**		
Rwanda						15
Senegal	8	8	322	**338**		58
Serbia	3			**3**		
Spain				**0**		
Switzerland						2
Sri Lanka				**0**		
Togo	6	4	315	**325**		1
Tunisia	5	2		**7**		
Turkey				**0**		21
United Republic of Tanzania	1	2		**3**		
Uruguay	2	0		**2**		6
Uganda	5	2		**7**		
Vanuatu				**0**		4
Yemen	5			**5**		2
Zambia	2			**2**		
Zimbabwe	2			**2**		
Total	**192**	**94**	**7 757**	**8 043**	**750**	**400**



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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 10 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table of Israeli violations during the month of April 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziade**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

07-34235 (E) 150507 170507

Annex to the identical letters dated 10 May 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing Israeli violations during April 2007

Air violations					*Land violations*					
Military jet	*Reconnaissance*	*Helicopter*	*Total*	*Sea violations*	*Military acts of aggression*	*Field violations*	*Breaches*	*Total*	*Grand total*	*Previous month's total*
				Crossing of territorial waters, and firing of automatic-weapons rounds, flares and flare shells over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military outposts and important positions, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, shooting of flare shells, shining of searchlights, dropping of artillery missiles and poison-gas balloons, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and display of weapons, bulldozing of soil, laying of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory			
13	**24**	**1**	**38**	**4**	—	**8**	**3**	**11**	**53**	**71**